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King Hussein Meets MPs From Trouble-Hit South

AMMAN — King Hussein met Wednesday with MPs from southern Jordan to discuss riots sparked by a rise in bread prices, as the army lifted for seven hours a curfew on the southern town of Karak.

The king was to "discuss the situation with deputies and senators and explore solutions" to the unrest which fuelled violent protests Friday and Saturday, a senior Jordanian official said.

"It is an open dialogue which will allow southern MPs to give their version of the riots" in Karak and three other southern towns, he added.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Israel to Get Direct Link to U.S. Spy Satellites

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — Israel will soon have "real-time" warning of any missile attack through a direct link to U.S. spy satellites, Air Force Chief General Eytan Ben Eliahu said Wednesday.

"We will shortly undergo technical modifications in the radar alarm system allowing us to have direct and real-time access to information from U.S. satellites in case of missile attack," he told the Air Force Review.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Greek, Bangladeshi FMs Confer With Velayati, Majlis Speaker





Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Greek Foreign Minister Theodore Pangalos and Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad in separate meetings here on Wednesday conferred with their Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati and Speaker of the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) Hojjatoleslam Nateq Nouri.

Rejecting the recent economic sanctions imposed by the United States against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Greek foreign minister in his meeting with Velayati said that Greece and other members of the European Union (EU) hold the view that it is not possible to pressure the international community to bow to some unilateral decisions, stressing that such an action is not acceptable to his country.

Pangalos added that the issue of the U.S. economic sanctions on Iran would be debated by the EU foreign ministers at their future session in September. He said that, definitely, the EU will take a unified stand against the sanctions.

The Greek foreign minister further pointed out that his country is fully determined to expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly in commercial and economic areas. He also said that Greece aims to upgrade the level of talks between Iran and the EU.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is among the major countries which provide Greece with its needed energy, the Greek minister said, adding that currently he is holding talks with Iranian officials on concluding a contract for the purchase of Iranian oil by Greece.

In his separate meeting with Hojjatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri on Wednesday, the hojjatoleslam referred to the commonalities between the two countries, and underlined the need for the expansion of mutual cooperation.

Nateq Nouri also voiced Iran's readiness to forge multilateral relations among Iran, Greece and the republics in Central Asia and Caucasus.

Pangalos, for his part, described as satisfactory the relations between Greece and the Islamic Republic of Iran and expressed hope that the bilateral ties would be further expanded.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Israeli Priority: Aggression Not Negotiations

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — "The Lebanese people would pay the price for guerrilla attacks," this is a warning announced by the right-wing Israeli Premier, Benjamin Netanyahu, after shelling a Lebanese village outside the security zone on Tuesday.

FOCUS

This is not the first time the Zionist outrageous attacks kill innocent Muslim people; it will not be the last either. From the very inception of the Zionist regime in the Middle East—established to function as an agent of the European colonialism—we have never witnessed a sensible policy on the part of the Zionist entity.

Thousands of pages of the Middle Eastern history have been covered with the brutality of the Zionist regime. In order to prepare a ground for its interference in the region, the West has planted and supported Israel in the region to destabilize the oil rich area. Naturally when the area is unstable the West, specially the U.S., justifies its intervention in the region on the pretext of maintaining the regional security.

Therefore, it is not surprising if the chain of events portray Israel as a destablizing factor and an expansionist regime that from time to time introduces new parameters in its security, requiring intrusion into the territories of the neighboring states.

The Thursday's violation of cease-fire accord, signed between Israel and Hezbollah, reveals the insincerity of Israel. It shows that despite rhetorics, Israel intends

(Contd on Pg.14)



TYRE, Lebanon (August 20): A Lebanese villager carries an Israeli unexploded bomb which fell in his tobacco plantation in the village of Zibqine, two kilometers outside the occupied zone in southern Lebanon. The Israeli shelling on the village damaged three houses, but inflicted no casualties.

(AFP PHOTO)

NATO Destroys Serb Weapons, Checks Other Arms Sites

SARAJEVO — NATO troops blew up more unauthorized Bosnian Serb weapons Wednesday and vowed they would investigate another 16 sites where arms are being stored to check if they were also illegal.

In a series of controlled explosions, Implementation Force (IFOR) soldiers destroyed several tons of mines, ammunition and missiles stored near Margetici village 40 kilometers (24 miles)

(Contd on Pg.14)

MARGETICI, Bosnia-Herzegovina (August 20): IFOR soldiers watch the destruction of Bosnian Serb ammunition seized from an unauthorized arms depot northeast of Sarajevo. NATO troops conducted a series of controlled explosions to destroy around 36 tons of Bosnian Serb weapons. *(AFP PHOTO)*

Russian Artillery Pounds Grozny as Lebed Plans New Peace Bid

MOSCOW — Russian artillery unleashed a fierce bombardment of Chechen positions in Grozny Wednesday, as national security chief Alexander Lebed left for Chechnya to head off an all-out Russian offensive on the city.

The shelling lasted about an hour, reaching a rate of more than 10 rounds per minute and igniting fires in several districts of the city, ITAR-TASS news agency reported, quoting the federal military command in the breakaway republic.

It seriously endangered the evacuation of civilians trying to flee the devastated city via a corridor to the village of Staraya Sunzha opened up by surrounding Russian forces, ITAR-TASS said.

An AFP correspondent said the dusty roads out of Grozny were jammed with columns of refugees, their vehicles crammed with huge bags of belongings.

Many fled on buses carrying only small makeshift bags stuffed with personal effects.

More than 40 civilians overall died in separate attacks on a column of refugees fleeing the fighting in the Chechen capital Grozny and on a village in southeast Chechnya, pro-Russian and Chechen sources said Wednesday.

Chechen sources quoted by Interfax news agency said 30 civilians were killed, dozens wounded and about 50 homes destroyed when Russian warplanes attacked the village of Galsan-Chu.

They said Galsan-Chu was at one time a base for separatist fighters, but they had long moved

(Contd on Pg.14)

Arabs Urged Not to Sign Chemical Treaty Until Israel Joins NPT

CAIRO — The Arab League on Wednesday called on Arab countries to refrain from signing a chemical Non-Proliferation Treaty as long as Israel refuses to adhere to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The request was made by an Arab League watchdog committee at the end of a two-day meeting in Cairo to evaluate Israel's nuclear strength which they consider a danger to their security, Arab League officials said.

Israel has never admitted having nuclear weapons although experts believe the Zoinsit state has 200 nuclear warheads. The Zionist state has refused to sign the NTP which Arab countries signed last year.

The committee stressed the need to keep the Middle East free of nuclear weapons and urged Arab countries to take a united stand and seek international support to put pressure on Israel.

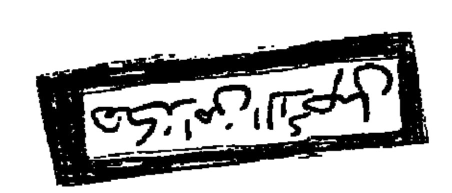
They made their recommendations in a report which will be submitted to the next ministerial conference of the Arab League in Cairo on September 14.

The committee also instructed the Arab Atomic Energy Agency (AAEA) to monitor and report on Israel's nuclear activity and urged the Arab League secretary general to inform the UN General Assembly of the Arab position.

The watchdog group was set up in March and groups experts from Egypt, Syria, Libya, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, and the United Arab Emirates.

The Syrian representative at

(Contd on Pg.14)



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In the Name of Allah

And he swore to them both: Most surely I am a sincere adviser to you.

(HOLY QORAN)(7:21)

OPINION

Carpet, Reliable Substitute for Oil

For centuries the Persian carpet has been one of the legendary handicrafts of our country.

We began to introduce and export this precious commodity to other parts of the world some 400 years ago. Before the oil boom of the 1970s, carpets constituted a major chunk of our exports. Unfortunately, the carpet industry received a lopsided attention during the Shah's regime, overshadowed by oil which was then considered a more profitable source of revenues.

Now, thanks to the Construction Jihad and the Cooperative Ministries, the carpet industry is slowly regaining the attention it deserves from the government. With the Second Five-Year Development Plan, the government now is taking a direct hand in finding favorable markets.

Still a lot has to be done. Despite the 220 hand-woven carpet cooperatives and 13 unions throughout the country, carpets have not been able to dictate their prices which are still way below their desired level abroad.

It is conceded that the carpet industry has a lot of problems. Exports of carpets in 1373 (1994-95 fiscal year) earned for us $1,678 billion. In 1995-96 the figure dropped to $933 million. On the other hand, total sales of carpets worldwide stood at $2.5 billion in 1994-95. Percentage-wise, our carpet exports constituted some 68 percent of total world sales in 1994-95. In 1995-96, sales went further down to 36 percent.

Carpet can, and must, replace oil as the main source of our foreign income in the long run. Relying on carpets as the main source of foreign income has several advantages: First, the raw materials needed for weaving carpets are produced domestically. Second, the skilled labor, i.e., the carpet weavers, are completely available in Iran. It may be said that it is truly a homegrown industry and, therefore, has built-in safeguards against foreign boycotts or imposed sanctions.

Today exports of carpets have not really reached the desired peak because of several internal problems. One way of boosting exports would be to facilitate export procedures. Procedures are so entrenched in formalities as to discourage the bulk of would-be exporters and raising prices abroad to an uncompetitive level. The government should also impose a tax system that will guarantee itself and the exporters a fair return of investment.

Since the oil bonanza of the 1970s which made many countries rich overnight, big companies have been able to get away with huge dividends by paying meager taxes. The present tax system makes a mockery of efforts to promote social justice.

On the whole, there are a number of hurdles to be resolved before carpet exports can reach their desired level. Some of these hurdles are structural but others are procedural. Others such as packaging, marketing, etc., have their negative effects on boosting sales.

The problems should now be given the attention they have been denied for so long. Competitors are increasing and our carpet weavers need the support of the government if they are to be encouraged in this very prestigious undertaking. Our policy-makers will do well to realize that more than anything else it is the prestige of the country that will suffer if we lose our standing in the international market. Carpet traders should at least have the assurance that they will no more go through the process of trial and error as far as economic policies are concerned.

Also we should spare no effort in improving our expertise in marketing, packaging and allied activities which are undeniably crucial in boosting sales abroad.

To reiterate, what the carpet industry needs are structural and procedural reforms and a stable economic environment. Our policy-makers should think twice before adopting economic policies that are in the trial stage.

Velayati: Cultural, Diplomatic Representatives Should Cooperate

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said here Wednesday that coordination and cooperation among the Islamic Republic's cultural and political representatives abroad is a must in introducing the values of the Islamic Revolution to the world community.

Addressing a gathering of Iranian cultural representatives in foreign countries, Velayati added that Iranian ambassadors do not represent a single organization but they are representatives of entire system and should do their best in coordinating the activities of the country's other organizations in their countries of mission.

The minister termed the activities of the Iranian cultural representatives abroad as delicate and sensitive saying that in case of failure they themselves and also their successors will suffer a great deal.

Cultural activities abroad have their own limitations and the cultural represntatives have to work within a framwork agreed upon by the officials of the two countries, added Velayati.

The foreign minister reiterated that the heads of different organizations abroad should carry out their tasks within an agreed framework since this is the most sensitive and crucial part of their duties. Any attempt by the country's officials outside Iran in violation of the agreement reached by the two sides will certainly entail adverse impact on the government and the officials themselves, he added.

Velayati advised Iran's cultural representatives abroad to keep in touch with the outstanding personalities of their countries of mission since this will have a postitive impact on performing their cultural duties.

These efforts should be well planned and calculated in accordance with the Islamic and national aspirations of the Iranian people, said Velayati, adding that such efforts will leave deep impact and long lasting effect.

Velayati said that an agreement has been signed by the Foreign Ministry and Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations, according to which, the Iranian ambassadors have been advised to cooperate fully with the country's cultural representatives outside Iran.

Head of the Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations, Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Ali Taskhiri, speaking in the same gathering said that the moves and activities of the country's different organizations abroad should be complementary.

Hojjatoleslam Taskhiri lauded the ambassadors who have been cooperating with the country's cultural representatives abroad and said that a strong bond has been established between the Foreign Ministry and his organization.

The First Seminar of Iran's Cultrual Attaches Abroad began on August 19.

The main objective of the gathering, which is to go on for 10 days, is to work out a joint cultural policy.

At present the Islamic Republic has cultural representatives in 63 countries all over the world.

(IRNA)

2,679 Clergymen Martyred Since 1979

ORUMIYEH, W. Azarbaijan Province — Out of the total of 214,000 martyrs since the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, 2,679 were clergymen, deputy of the Martyrs Foundation Jamshid Ansari said here Tuesday.

He added that 1,892 ulema were martyred in the frontline of the battlefields during the eight-year Iraqi imposed war, 59 of whom were commanders.

Out of the total number of clergymen martyred since 1963, some 2,221 were martyred in warfronts, 132 in attacks of the terrorist Mujahedeen Khalq Organization (MKO) and another 37 in Iraqi bombardments during 1980-1988 Iraqi war, Ansari added.

(IRNA)

Sheikholeslam: Tehran-Nairobi Relations Excellent



NAIROBI — The visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Middle East and Africa Hossein Sheikholeslam termed Tehran-Nairobi relations as highly satisfactory and called for further expansion of bilateral relations in all areas.

Heading a politico-economic delegation, Sheikholeslam arrived here Tuesday night on a 2-day official visit.

Since President Daniel Arap Moi's visit to Iran relations between the two countries have deepened considerably, said the deputy foreign minister, expressing hope that the forthcoming visit of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to Kenya will give a further momentum to Tehran-Nairobi relations.

He said that the main aim behind his visit to Kenya is to review possibility of bilateral economic and industrial cooperation and also to prepare the ground for agreements in this regard.

In view of potentials of Iran and Kenya both countries are in a position to launch major joint projects beneficial to both nations, said Sheikholeslam.

The Iranian delegation is to hold talks with Kenyan officials.

(IRNA)

Erbakan: Tehran Visit Highly Fruitful



ANKARA — Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan said here Wednesday morning that his recent visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran has been highly fruitful.

He made the remark at Ankara Airport upon his arrival from a 10-day official tour of five Islamic states.

Erbakan paid a three-day visit to Tehran on August 10 at the head of a 250-member delegation, his first foreign destination since taking office.

He told reporters that in Tehran he discussed different avenues to bolster Tehran-Ankara relations.

Expressing dissatisfaction over low volume of Tehran-Ankara trade in 1995, Erbakan reiterated that the two neighboring states are determined to boost bilateral trade to to $2-2.5 billion a year.

He also said that in Tehran the agreement on purchase of Iranian natural gas was signed. Furthermore, other documents were signed on promotion of cooperation in the fields of energy and transportation.

The Turkish prime minister added he also raised with the Iranian officials the issue of combating terrorist activities and also ways of increasing security cooperation.

(IRNA)

Kharrazi: U.S. Should Accept the Reality of Islamic Iran

TEHRAN — Iran's Permanent Representative to the UN, Kamal Kharrazi, stressed here Tuesday that the Islamic Republic does not seek tension in the region.

"But if the Americans were after adventurism, we would defend (ourselves) considering all available possibilities," he told the Persian morning daily *Iran*.



In an exclusive interview with the daily, printed Wednesday, Kharrazi pointed out that Iran-U.S. relations were passing through a challenging period.

He added that as long as the Americans did not accept the reality of Islamic Iran, the struggle would continue, as he said, "We cannot forgo the independence of our country."

On the possibility of easing off the tension in Tehran-Washington relations, the Iranian envoy said this could only be realized when the Americans accepted the Islamic Republic of Iran as a reality that existed.

At present, however, the Americans, in considering the interests of others as well as their own economic objectives in the region, have been insinuating that Iran is a threat that has taken the place of the former Soviet Union.

The Iranian official also expressed his views on American public opinion towards the d'Amato law that stipulated penalties against foreign companies investing in the Iranian oil and gas sectors.

Kharrazi said Americans were normally non-political people, adding that majority of entities and organizations that would be adversely affected opposed the legislation.

(IRNA)

U.S. Will Become a Casualty of Its Own Policies: Indian Expert

NEW DELHI — It is the wrong sense of overarching superiority which is goading the American administration to threaten those who dare to stand against it such as Iran, India, Cuba and Libya, says Ashok Mitra, a leading left economist of India and the member of Indian Parliament.

In his article, "Heads, the U.S. Wins: Tails, the World Loses," carried by an English newspaper of India, *The Pioneer*, Wednesday, Mitra says the U.S. has no qualms in threatening a country here, imposing sanctions on a country there and waging a war on another country somewhere. It is a case of heads, the Americans win: tails, the rest of the world loses."

Such outrageous acts does the U.S. indulge is that it has gone presuming that Iran and Libya are behind recent terrorist attacks on American soil and on the basis of this it has imposed sanctions against these two countries by asking its allies to suspend forthwith trade relations with them, adds Mitra.

Now, the U.S. penchant for dictating the entrie world has begun to boomerang. France and Russia have equally intensely protested the U.S. "Overbearingness" in the form of imposing sanctions on Iran and Libya. More nations will eventually join in, says Mitra.

"The U.S. will soon discover that by applying palpably unreasonable pressure on others, it is in danger of losing the grip of its quasi-imperial, quasi-colonial control over them. A bully has to be counter bullied. This every nation will soon learn. And this will set in the U.S. downfall. The American administration must be told about the cliche, pride preceeds a fall," concludes Mitra.

(IRNA)

President Inaugurates Hospital in Isfahan



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN— President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani inaugurated Hazrat Rasul-e-Akram Hospital in Fereydunshahr region during the third day of his visit to Esfahan province on Wednesday, IRNA reported from Esfahan.

The hospital, built with a credit of Rls.8 billion, has 6,300 square meters of roofed space with various sections including surgery, internal medicine, pediatric, obstetric, emergency and maternity wards.

At present, there are 46 general and private hospitals with a total of 6,601 beds in the province.

S. Africa Unhappy Over U.S. Interference in Oil Deal With Iran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - South Africa is annoyed with the Clinton administration on its opposition to South Africa-Iran agreement on the storage of 15 million barrels of Iranian oil at the Saldahha Bay storage facilities in the country.

"Dr. Mandela is not amused nor is the African National Congress over the state department's overt and covert attempts at interfering in the affairs of our post apartheid policies at home and abroad," a senior South African diplomat told India's English newspaper *The Statesman* recently.

The deal is expected to generate approximately $330 million annually for South Africa, an important and much needed flow for the cash-strapped South African economy, says *The Statesman*.

The South African diplomat said that the deal with Iran did not in any way contravene American sanctions against Iran.

"Even if it does, the Americans have no business telling us what to do and what not to do," he added.

Any country which shows interests in doing business with South Africa is welcomed as the money generated from such business will help the country's reconstruction and development programs, said the diplomat.

Speaking high of South Africa-Iran relations, the irate diplomat asked where was the American government when the apartheid regime was openly supplying uranium to Israel to make nuclear weapons and importing nuclear and other technologies from the Jewish state?"

Three War-Torn Provinces Reconstructed

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - A senior official has announced that the reconstruction of the three war-devastated provinces of Kurdestan, West Azarbaijan and Lorestan has been accomplished, adding that construction efforts are currently underway in the province of Ilam.

Iran, Pakistan Sign Deal to Set Up $1.2bn Oil Refinery

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh Wednesday wrapped up his three-day trip to Islamabad with the signing of an agreement worth over 1.2 billion dollars for the construction of an oil refinery in the southwestern Pakistani town of Karachi.

Pakistan's Petroleum Minister Anwar Saifullah initialled the deal on behalf of his government, IRNA reported.

The official sources said the cost of the gigantic project, which will have the processing capacity of 120,000 barrels of crude oil per day, will be equally shared by Pakistan's state-run petroleum refining and petrochemical corporation and Iran's National Oil Company.

The Pakistani press gave prominent coverage to the deal for the construction of country's biggest oil refinery.

The two sides also agreed to undertake the detailed feasibility of the Pakistan-Iran gas pipeline project.

Meanwhile, Aqazadeh who has had meetings with President Farooq Ahmed Leghari, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and other Pakistani officials during his visit said Islamabad has made it clear that the American curbs, which drew scathing criticism from European countries, would not affect time tested Islamabad-Tehran relations.

Leghari told the Iranian minister that Pakistan and Iran had mutually complimentary economies and should not look at each other as competitors.

He welcomed the recently established rail links between Iran and Central Asian states and said Islamabad was looking forward to the extension of this track to the Iranian city of Zahedan bordering Pakistan.

Pakistani president also expressed his pleasure over the signing of the deal between Iran and Turkey for the supply of natural gas.

Iran's Offshore Oil Production Reached 462,000 bpd

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - By drilling 21 new wells and repair of over 190 wells, Iran's oil production from offshore fields reached 462,000 barrels a day last Iranian year (ended March 19, 1996) from 245,000 barrels a day at the beginning of the First Development Plan (1989), it was announced here Wednesday.

Esmail Jalilian, offshore production manager of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), added that some Rls.880.9 billion plus $587.2 million was alloted to reconstruction of wells and projects to increase the production during the same period, IRNA reported.

The offshore oil installations were seriously damaged in the course of 1980-88 Iraqi imposed war which pushed the country's oil production down. However, thanks to unceasing efforts of Iranian experts in the past few years, the oil production has increased again.

He further stated that 183 wells are currently pumping out oil and gas in the Persian Gulf offshore fields.

The oil production has been planned to amount to 500,000 barrels a day, but the production is likely to exceed the target, Jalilian noted.

He expressed hope that in the light of the increased activities of the offshore department of the NIOC, the offshore oil production is to reach one million barrels a day by the end of the second five-year development plan, 1999.

The number of drilling rigs of the department will increase from two to nine by 1999, he said, adding last year, for the first time in the country, two horizontal wells, instead of vertical ones, were drilled in the Abouzar Oil Field, which saved at least $100 million.

42% of World's Pistachio Produced in Kerman

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Some 42 percent of the world's pistachio output comes from Kerman province of Iran, the Governor of Kerman province, Morteza Bank, said in Kerman on Wednesday.

According to Bank, the province also accounts for 48 percent of total export of pistachio nuts in the world, IRNA reported.

He said that the annual pistachio export from Kerman is worth $330 million, having the highest value added compared to other agricultural products.

Speaking at a conference on pistachio, the governor added that pistachio ranks second after hand-woven carpet in the list of Iranian non-oil exports.

Every year, he said, some 140,000 tons of pistachio nuts are exported from Kerman.

There are 234,627 hectares of pistachio gardens through out the province which produce a total of 240,000 tons of the pistachio nuts a year.

The cities of Rafsanjan, Kerman, Sirjan and Zarand have the most pistachio gardens in the province.

The three day conference which began on August 19, is aimed at studying problems related to pistachio. It is attended by some 700 experts and researchers.

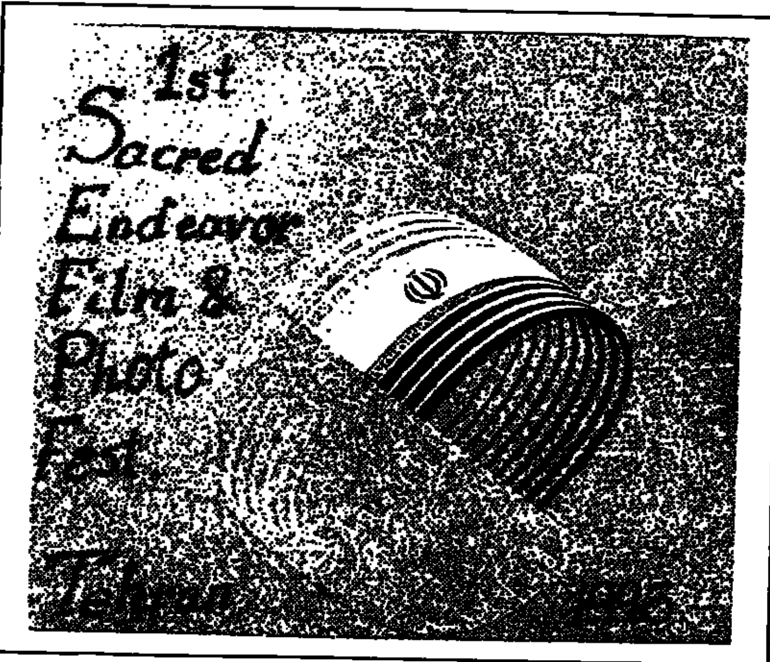
FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

The following table shows the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Wednesday, August 21, 1996.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates BUY	Floating Rates SELL	Export Rates BUY	Export Rates SELL
Australia	dollar	1,378	1,386	2,366	2,378
Austria	schilling	167	168	286	288
Belgium	(100)francs	5,690	5,722	9,768	9,817
Canada	dollar	1,272	1,280	2,184	2,195
Denmark	krone	303	305	521	524
France	franc	343	345	589	592
Germany	mark	1,173	1,179	2,013	2,023
Holland	guilder	1,045	1,051	1,794	1,803
Italy	(100)liras	115	116	198	199
Japan	(100)yen	1,619	1,628	2,779	2,793
Sweden	krone	264	266	454	456
UAE	dirham	476	479	818	820
UK	pound	2,700	2,716	4,636	4,659
U.S.	dollar	1,750	1,755	3,000	3,015

TEHRAN TIMES

First 'Sacred Endeavor Film and Photo Festival' Tehran Aug. 23-29



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — On the auspicious occasion of the Government Week, the first 'Sacred Endeavor Film and Photography Festival' to be held between August 23 to 29.

In a press conference, held at the Experimental Research Film Center on Monday, the organizing institute of the festival, Hamid Sajjadpoor, the Festival Secretary said that the cinematic-photographic event also aimed at encouraging film directors and producers and the makers of video programs to focus on 'construction subject' in its various aspects.

Sajjadpoor said that the festival covers three main sections, namely the 'Film and Video' competition of '16 and 35 mm Short and Feature-Length Films' and 'Video Programs', each section consisting of narrative, documentary and news items.

The photo contest of the festival will be held at the Permanent Ground for Tehran International fairs while a third section will focus on other forms of artistic endeavors that reflect the objectives of the festival.

A total of 31 feature-length films and about 1,700 minutes of video programs ere accepted for final screening by the selection committee, while the photo contest would consist of 69 shots selected from among over 370 contributed photographs.

Awards would be given to the best direction and best production in various categories of films, in addition to the selection of an entry to be given a special jury prize.

In the photography contest, prizes will be given to the best photographer, best producer of photographs and five creators of superior images.

A number of photo exhibitions on government projects will also be organized during the festival days.

Festival entries in the film section will be screened at Africa and Kowsar cinemas and entrance will be possible only with invitation cards.

Attending the other sections of the festival will be open to the public, free of charge, at the Permanent Ground for Tehran International fairs at Chamran Express-way, along with the other exhibitions held on the occasion of the Government Week at the same site.

Sri Lanka Eyes Golf to Lift Tourism Industry From Doldrums

Sri Lanka is Arthur C. Clarke's Adopted Home

COLOMBO — Sri Lanka's once thriving tourism industry is in the doldrums after bomb attacks in the capital but the country is investing in golf courses and luxury rooms to woo high spenders.

The number of holiday makers dropped by 30 percent in the first half of the year while the supply of accommodation increased, forcing down tariffs and driving many hotels into the red, Tourism Minister Dharmasiri Senanayake said.

However, he said the government had approved the setting up of three private golf courses with luxury accommodation to cater to upmarket tourists, especially the Japanese.

"The last winter season failed but the situation is gradually improving and we should have more arrivals (of tourists) in the next season," Senanayake has told the Foreign Correspondents' Association.

The bomb attack against the country's main oil storage depot here in October and the suicide bombing of the Central Bank in downtown Colombo prompted foreign tour operators to take Sri Lanka off their brochures.

"I am optimistic that these problems (of security) are not going to stay with us forever," Senanayake said. "what we are trying to get across is that no foreigner has been targeted."

"The risk in visiting Sri Lanka is no greater than going anywhere else."

Cyril Gardiner, the owner of the island's best known address, the 132-year-old Galle Face Hotel, agreed but added too little had been done to present Sri Lanka as a safe holiday destination.

Gardiner said the British-born science fiction writer, Arthur C. Clarke, who had made Sri Lanka his adopted home for more than 30 years, should have been projected as a symbol that it was okay for tourists.

"If it is safe for Arthur Clarke to stay in Colombo, why is it not for others," Gardiner said, adding that Clarke completed his latest novel, "3001, the Final Odyssey," while staying at the Galle Face Hotel in June.

Meanwhile, the seemingly unending fighting between government forces and Tamil Tiger guerrillas has helped large foreign tour operators to negotiate bargain basement prices with visitor-starved hotels.

"We may have a situation where rates during the season will be lower than in the off-season," a hotel manager in the north-central resort village of Kandalama said. "Security is an excuse to knock down prices."

Most hotels report occupancy rates of about 20 percent. The five-star hotels in the capital are regulated by a minimum rate of $70-a-night plus taxes but undercutting is not uncommon. Beach hotels offer free rooms to anyone buying food, usually at less than 20 dollars a day.

Minister Senanayake said the government was offering a financial rescue package to prevent large-scale retrenchment. It was also planning to spend $5 million on a promotional drive overseas and looking at new markets in South Africa, India and Russia to get over the present crisis.

"We have a huge market of about 100 million Indians who like to travel abroad on holiday," Senanayake said. "But we don't have the kind of shopping they want. We will improve that and also introduce good night entertainment."

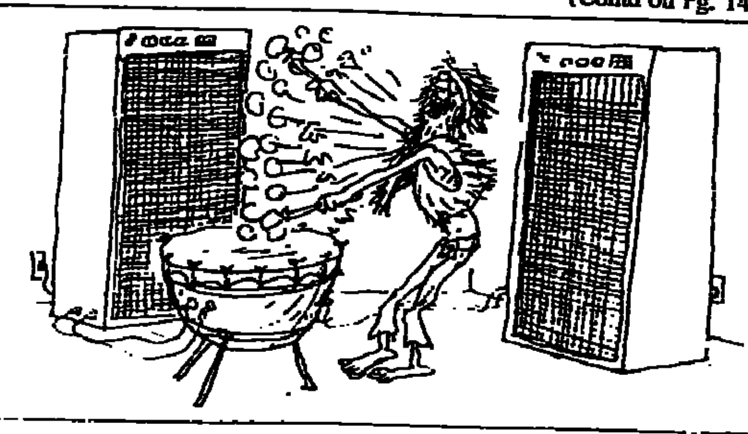
He said there was no firm policy on casinos. Those closed down by the previous administration more than five years ago are cautiously reopening.

That may explain the slight increase in the number of keen punters from Hong Kong and Indonesia. Visitors from Hong Kong jumped to 1,932 in the first four months of the year compared to 1,710 in the corresponding period last year. Some 750 Indonesians came here this year compared to 366 in the first four months of 1995.

Sri Lanka's main market, Germany, however, recorded a fall of 44 percent to 20,517 in the first four months of the year. The number of Britons dropped marginally by 6.7 percent to 19,563.

"The industry is going through one of the worst periods," said Ken Balendra, chairman of John Keells holdings, a top tour operator and hotel owner. "But it is one of the most resilient industries and still has the potential to become the main foreign exchange earner if promotion is handled properly."

(AFP)



Significant Rise in Number of Iranian Female Students

TEHRAN — The gap between the number of female and male school students has narrowed in Iran since 1978, it was announced here on Thursday.

The percentage difference between the number of girl students to boys in schools is now three, down from 12 per cent in the academic year 1977-78.

Of the 7,745,875 students in 1978, some 2,968,637 or 38 per cent of the whole, were female, while in the academic year 1995-96 the number of female students stood at 8.416.068, making up about 47 per cent of the whole.

The total number of students in Iran has been 18,192,461 in 1996. Iran's Ministery of Education has vowed to erradicate all sexual discriminations by the end of the Second Development Plan.

According to statistics, women form nearly half of the population in Iran. (IRNA)

Globe Theater Reopening Urgently Seeking Actor

LONDON — London's new Globe Theatre was urgently seeking a stand-in for Wednesday night's re-opening performance after an actor at rehearsal took the Thespian's "break-a-leg" luck wish too literally.

George Innes, who plays both Antonio and Thurio in Shakespeare's "Two Gentlemen of Verona," fell from a ladder onto the stage during a Tuesday night dress rehearsal and broke his leg.

"It's one of those things in life, you have to be philosophical about," said a spokeswoman for the theatre, which was rebuilt to replace the one that burned down 380 years ago.

(AFP)

Lake Victoria On Clean-Up Agenda: GEF

NAIROBI — The World Bank-administered Global Environmental Facility (GEF) is to provide $35 million to help clean up Lake Victoria, bordered by Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya, the bank announced here Wednesday.

The lake, Africa's biggest, is threatened by water hyacinth which first appeared in 1989, but is now choking huge areas of the lake.

The floating mats of weed reduce oxygenation of the water, and provide living quarters for malarial mosquito larvae and snails that produce bilharzia.

The clean-up project is also aimed at conserving the lake's

(Contd on Pg. 14)



This Week: Two Films From One Director

Two films from Ebrahim Hatamikia, the young and energetic Iranian director were projected on the silver screens of the Iranian cinemas on July and August, 1996.

These two feture-lenght movies, were essentially of different textures both in terms of their contents and in form.

"Bouye Pirahan-e Yousef (Scent of Joseph's Shirt) tells the story of an old man and a young woman, both of whom awaiting the return of a beloved one from the war fronts. The optimistic old man gets back his long-lost son, Yousof, while successfully teaching the young woman to believe in the philosophy of "constructive waiting".



The film is propagating the above mentioned philosophy, which is one of the essential factors in the Shia school of thought and many other monotheist religions. That is exactly why the film easily slides into the realm of heavy symbolism.

Yet, the film lacks the basic elements of the symbolic genre movies, while failing in elaboration of the relation between the personality of the characters and their logical ties.

Instead, it focuses on the factors of action films' genre. Daie (uncle) Qafour's acquaintance with the young woman, and many other events of the film are examples of this fact.

All in all, the film lacks the essential factors of an attractive, dramatic filmscript, and is made based on an immature idea.

Hatamikia's other film, *"Borj-e Minou"* (The Bridge to Heaven), on the other hand, is a worthwhile work.

The film relates the story of a young combatant who has forgotten about his promises made during the war, including his religious duties and his vows made with other combatant friends. He is absorbed in worldly, material aspects of life.

A letter, brought to him right before his honeymoon trip, by a war-stricken woman from the war-torn south changes the course of this ex-combatant's life...



The film is thoroughly a successful integration of true and imaginary worlds of this man, while his newly-wed bride, too shares the experience, in which her brother had been martyred.

Hatamikia is quite successful in integration of truth and imagination of this young man, in an island called Minoo, getting energy from the true love of his wife, Minoo.



Iranian Athletes Win One Gold, One Silver at Paralympics

TEHRAN — Two Iranian Paralympic champions bagged one gold and one silver medals on the fourth day of the track and field competitions of Atlanta Paralympic Championship on Monday.

Mokhtar Nourafshan who won the gold medal in javelin throw on Monday, had bagged a bronze medal in shot put on Sunday. Finnish and Australian athletes ranked second and third, respectively.

Meanwhile, Abdolreza Jokar bagged the silver medal in javelin throw at Atlanta Paralympics on Monday. Athletes from Mexico and New Zeland, respectively, ranked first and second.

Qader Modabber, another Iranian athlete, won two gold medals in the Paralympics men's javelin throw and shot put on Saturday and Sunday.

(IRNA)

Angolan Soccer Team Invited for Simba Cup

LUANDA, Angop-Pool — Angolan soccer team has been invited to play in the Simba Cup international tournament from 14 to 21 September in South Africa, a source told Angop yesterday.

According to the secretary-general of the Angola Soccer Federation, Victor Geovetty Barros, his department has not yet responded to the invitation made on Friday.

He said Angolas technical council and the department for national soccer team will try and re-program the home championship timetable in order not to clash with its 22nd, 23rd and 24th legs matches.

The winner of the Simba Cup tournament to be played in the South African cities of Durban, Pretoria and Johannesburg, will snatch a $50,000 prize, whereas the best scorer team will get $25,000.

Victor Barros said as well that the invitation is an attempt to compensate Angola for its exclusion from the 'Castel Lager' tournament.

The tournament will involve the national teams of Australia, Ghana, Nigeria and Angola. The two first ones have already acceded to participate.

Meanwhile, Ghana will play Angola on November 10 in Luanda, for the first leg of the world championship 'group 4' qualifying match.

The Gabonese Soccer Federation has also invited Angola for a friendly match on November 3 in Luanda.

(IRNA)

Understanding Kung Fu as Described by a Master



By Ja'far Qasempour Jahangir
(Part 3rd)

A master may find many reasons, to harbor the truth and not divulge it to anyone; for instance, he might believe that a student has not yet developed readiness to proceed to higher levels. Or he might have reached the conclusion that if he releases information on a step-by-step basis, gradually rather than all at once, the students might appreciate him further or hold him in batter respect. Sometimes silence is merely a mask or disguise to cover and hide the hollowness inside. It may hide an utter lack of substance in the master. Finally, some masters have religious reasons to keep mum. Many Chinese and Buddhist masters have been prohibited from breaking their silence.

For whatever reason, such precaution and codes of silence were absolutely mandatory in feudal China. In blatant disregard to their vows and strict codes of conduct, many Kung fu experts betrayed their mandates and became outlaws or veritable renegades and attacked cities, and villages in groups and looted whatever they could lay their hands on. Buddhist temples were not impregnable and so they could be used as safe houses used for training thieves and illicit activities; they were not impenetrable at all. The invaders. the occupiers of these temples, were out of reach of any authority; so, it was only wise to be very selective in the choice of Kung fu trainees, only the very best and closely chosen few a were given access to Kung fu. This was done through very strict disciplinary tests amounting to a veritable ordeal. But the whole tradition of over-conservatism, which was deeply rooted in Chinese culture, left a most unfortunate and deleterious precedence and deathbed conversion of old masters did not help much. This ambiguous picture of Kung fu, though not genuine, has arrived to this day. Little can be done to eliminate this ambiguity; indeed, it seems to have spread to the extent that it has been frequently abused by insincere and deceitful people disguised as masters, for personal material advantage. What else, except fraud and deceit, could encourage these so-called masters to spiral equivocal 'teachings' in every direction and the rapid popularity and spread of Kung fu in the East and the West has added a new dimension to the problem and has further complicated the matter. For instance, uneducated and ignorant people all around the world from London to Los Angeles to Tokyo queue up to sign up for Kung fu classes without having the slightest information about their instructors; needless to say, nobody questions the sincerity and goodwill of these prospective students, but this much uneducated popularity only adds injury to insult. Although there are many conscientious and well-known instructors (though few of them can be described as master) in the West making every effort to present true image Kung fu, there are also many frauds who charge the king's ransom for teaching a few rudimentary preparatory physical aerobic exercise and gymnastics to the poor utterly oblivious students. This readily laid baited snare is not limited to foreigners: Ji Ym Lee, a Chinese-American writes in the introduction of his book Wing Chuan Kung Fu: "Not once did I see throughout these years [referring to 3 years of training he had under the training of a San Francisco instructor] that a student be invited to participate in drill confrontation. Later I realized, to my dismay and disappointment that all those so-called instruction were a waste of time and solely for the financial benefit of instructor".

Moreover, due to virtual lack of information about the literature on Chinese boxing and the human moral factor in it and paying too little attention to the true nature of Kung fu, there is the tendency towards turning Kung fu into a tool for material gain and show of muscles.



Some efforts have been made to restore the true image of Kung fu. These effort must be appreciated and promoted. For instance, the British Kung Fu Consul promises to provide in the near future.

At this stage I would like to offer a few words of advice to those who intend to join Kung fu clubs and training centers:

1-Don not exorbitant fees in advance

2-Do not harbor the unrealistic expectation of becoming a full-fledged Kung fu expert in a short time; attaining mastery takes along time-sometimes a lifetime.

3-Make sure to be in the level and group you belong to.

4-If you are making no progress despite hard efforts, change your club.

In order to make a brief definition of what Kung fu is all about I should like to point out: Kung fu is primarily the art of self-defense in confrontation of a formidable opponent. However, there is more to it than that: endurance and survival in the face of imminent danger and under the bore blades of swords and sabers. Bear in mind, the conception of this great art and philosophy goes back to thousands of years age (five thousand years ago to be more precise).

Second Round of Daroo-Gostar Tennis Matches (Mallincrodt Veterinary) Was Held





The annual Daroo-Gostar Tennis Matches, known also as Mallincrodt, held every year in Iran, are financially supported by the English-German Mallincrodt Veterinary and held by Daroo-Gostar group of companies. That is why the Farsi name of Daroo-Gostar has been chosen for the matches.

One of the objectives of the matches is to introduce Mallincrodt and its unique products. Its products is distributed in large quantities every year in the Iranian veterinary market. New items also as Butalex, Imizol, Paracox, Estrumate, etc. in near future will be registered in Iran. These matches are held Aug.2-Aug.12 at Esteghlal Tennis Club with the collaboration of Tehran Tennis Committee.

This year's matches were held in different age groups namely U-12-14-16-18 open and over U-45. The plays were welcomed warmer by the participants this year as compared with last year.

Almost 700 participants took part to show the importance and credit of Mallincrodt matches.

The plays concluded with the final match in U-18 group between Farzin Razyani and Ashkan Shahgholi along with open final between Jahanbakhsh Soori and Mohammad Reza Tavakkoli.

The champions for each group are:

Open Mohammad Reza Tavakkoli
U-18 Farzin Razyani
U-16 Anoosha Shahgholi
U-14 Amir Reza Ra'fat
U-12 Amir Reza Askari
Over U-45 Dr. Beihaghi

Daroo-Gostar hopes to hold the matches next year with the collaboration of the Mallincrodt more gloriously than ever to take steps toward promotion of society's well-being.

With its valuable activities in discovering unique medicines and new molecules through extensive researches, Mallincrodt has endeavored to offer services to help create a safe and ailment-free society through sports promotion.



هكذا من الأصل

Political Storm Brews Over Vice President's Ukraine Visit

TAIPEI — A new political storm appeared to be brewing between China and Taiwan Wednesday in their tussle for international influence, with Beijing spewing anger at a visit to Ukraine by Taiwanese Vice President Lien Chan.

But the darkening horizon failed to prevent Taiwanese share prices from surging ahead as investors ploughed money into shipping firms after China released rules on establishing direct trade links with its rival across the Taiwan Strait.

Lien's surprise visit to the Ukrainian capital Kiev — ostensibly to collect an honorary degree from Kiev university — was revealed Tuesday by Taiwanese television.

The visit "was obviously made for political purposes," a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Beijing, adding China was lodging an official protest with the Ukrainian government.

"Ukraine's agreement to accept Lien Chan's visit has constituted a serious violation of its commitment made on the question of Taiwan in the communique made on the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the Ukraine," the spokesman said.

Beijing strictly prohibits any country with which it has diplomatic ties from any action that might be construed as official recognition of the nationalist government in Taipei.

Last year, Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui made an ostensibly "private" trip to the United States to visit his Alma Mater, Cornell University in New York.

The trip incensed China, prompting it to launch a campaign of intimidation, with military exercises and missile tests, off the Taiwanese coast in the runup to the island's presidential election campaign, which was easily won by Lee.

A Ukrainian Embassy official in Beijing confirmed that Lien was currently in Kiev, but stressed that his visit was completely unofficial in nature.

"Lien was invited to Ukraine in a private capacity and the Ukrainian government's one-China policy remains unchanged," the spokesman said. All attempts by Taiwan to break out of its diplomatic isolation "were doomed to failure," he said.

The Taiwanese government renewed its bid Wednesday to rejoin the United Nations, saying its membership would not run counter with China's position in the world body.

A paper said that Taiwan's admittance to the UN would not create a "two Chinas" issue, citing examples of the former East and West Germany and North and South Korea, the official Central News Agency (CNA) reported.

Taipei criticized its exclusion from the body as unfair, saying it was a denial of the rights of the island nation's 21.3 million people.

The paper called for the UN to readmit Taipei, ousted by the body in 1971 when Beijing was accepted as a member.

(AFP)

Israel, Palestinians Meet After Warning of "Financial Collapse"

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — Israeli and Palestinian officials resumed contacts here Wednesday after a warning from a UN special coordinator that the Palestinian Authority (PA) was in danger of "financial collapse."

General Oren Shahor, coordinator of Israeli activities in the Palestinian territories, met Jamil Tarifi who is in charge of civilian affairs for the PA. The session, their second meeting in eight days, was held behind closed doors.

The officials were examining delays in implementing accords on civil affairs, Israeli radio said.

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators were also to hold talks on the environment later the same day in Bait-ul-Moqaddas, said a spokesman for the Israeli Environment Ministry.

But a planned third meeting, between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's diplomatic adviser Dore Gold and top PLO official Mahmoud Abbas, could be held up until Thursday, Israeli officials said.

The premier's office said Foreign Minister David Levy had been informed of Gold's meeting. "Such contacts will form part of the norm from now on," a spokesman said.

Netanyahu's inner Cabinet met on Wednesday but called off a debate on the new by-pass roads to be built for the 145,000 Jewish settlers in the Palestinian territories.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 4)

LAKE...

biodiversity, managing fishing, and ensuring that lakeshore residents have potable water.

The bank said that over-fishing and oxygen depletion was threatening more than 200 indigenous lake species with extinction.

A management body established by the three east African countries in 1994 says that among the main problems affecting the lake are poor land use systems, deteriorating water quality, inadequate laws and regulations, and discharge of industrial and domestic waste.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

KING...

Meanwhile an army curfew imposed on Karak Saturday was lifted from 7 am to 2 pm (0400 GMT to 1100 GMT) Wednesday and shops opened for residents in the town.

The army presence was less visible around the town than in previous days although military checkpoints and armored personnel carriers remained posted at major crossroads.

Officials said the curfew would be gradually eased during the week. "Our hope is to lift the curfew entirely by Friday and if things remain quiet this looks possible," one said.

The authorities have also begun freeing people arrested during the riots, which erupted in Karak Friday before spreading to three other southern towns and Amman on Saturday.

Ten juveniles were set free Tuesday and another 50 not involved in direct criminal acts will be released in stages during the week, Karak's Deputy Governor Nayef Njadat said.

The authorities have said 150 people were arrested in connection with the violent protests in Karak and three nearby towns, but the opposition and other sources have put the figure at over than 300.

King Hussein made an appeal for unity in the desert kingdom he has ruled for the past 44 years during a visit Tuesday to the northern town of Ramtha.

"We must push forward on the path of dialogue, democracy and respect for human rights and reject chaos," he told a loyal crowd of several thousand.

In a conciliatory move, his beleagured Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti met seven southern deputies and two senators late Tuesday to discuss the reasons behind the riots.

Opposition parties have called on the Kabariti government to resign for withdrawing bread subsidies as part of an international monetary fund-agreed economic recovery program.

But King Hussein, who blamed the rioting on "Iraqi sympathisers," has so far stood by his prime minister.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

ISRAEL...

"We will thus gain precious time. Previously, information carried by electro-optic sensors was first transmitted to Washington and then on to Israel by telephone," he explained.

"This system led to delays. Moreover, in case of an attack on several countries at the same time, it could cause a dilemma for the Americans over the order of priorities to alert the countries under threat."

Ben Eliahu said the new linkup was more than just a technical adjustment. "It is proof of the excellent state of relations and trust between us and the United States," he said.

On Wednesday, Israel successfully tested its Hetz-2 anti-missile missile for the first time under war-like conditions.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

GREEK...

The visiting Bangladeshi Minister of Foreign Affairs, Abdus Samad Azad here on Wednesday voiced his country's readiness to upgrade bilateral, regional and international cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In a meeting with Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, Azad explained the transition of power in Bangladesh in the wake of the recent elections, adding that his trip to Iran as the first state he is visiting since the formation of new government in Bangladesh indicated the priority that Bangladesh has given to Iran.

Azad also conveyed the resolve of Bangladeshi government and nation to further develop relations and mutual cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran and called for Iranian participation in development plan in Bangladesh.

Referring to the visit paid by President Rafsanjani to Bangladesh last year, Azad called for putting the accords already reached between the two countries into practice.

The Bangladeshi foreign minister said the opening of Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railway has provided unique transit facility for Iran and appealed for Iranian assistance to form trade link between Bangladesh and the Commonwealth of the Independent States (CIS) and the Caucasian states. Azad also invited Velayati to visit Dhaka.

Velayati congratulated Azad on establishment of Bangladeshi new government after the general elections and called for exploring new grounds for economic cooperation in development projects, road construction and industry.

He stressed the importance of regional cooperation including tripartite cooperation of Iran, Turkmenistan and Bangladesh and said Iran is ready to contribute to boosting ties between Bangladesh and the Commonwealth of the Independent States (CIS).

Velayati also called for developing Tehran-Dhaka cooperation at the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

The two foreign ministers also discussed ways to set up relations between the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Azad arrived in Tehran on Wednesday for a visit at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart Velayati.

In a meeting with the visiting Bangladeshi foreign minister, Majlis speaker Nateq-Nouri said the U.S. with its growing presence in the Persian Gulf tried to dominate the world's energy center.

He saw the revival of the Islamic thought as the biggest danger to the White House rulers and said that the U.S. considered the Islamic Republic of Iran as the focal point for the resurgence of the thought. Due to the same reason, he added, it exerted all kinds of pressures on Iran through various means.

Nateq-Nouri, also head of the legislative body, called Tehran-Daka ties as "deep-rooted and close" and, referring to abundant commonalties enjoyed by the two countries, called for expansion of full-fledged ties.

AAad in return described as "very good and cordial" bilateral ties and expressed wi'llingness to expand relations in all spheres.

Azad also conveyed an invitation extended by Bangladeshi Parliament speaker to his Iranian counterpart to pay an official visit to Bangladesh.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

ISRAELI...

not only to maintain the territories it occupied in previous wars with the Arabs, but also to obtain an upper hand in the process of the so-called peace negotiations, to achieve its future illegitimate objectives.

It should be mentioned that Israel pursues both short- and long-term objectives. The main priority in Israeli short-term objectives is its security. An alienated country in the region, Israel has been trying to build up a powerful army to impose its illegitimate policies on her neighbors.

With the help of the Western mass media, advocating the cause of a Jewish state in the Middle East, Israel has succeeded in manipulating international public opinion, presenting itself as a victim of cruelty. At the same time it has been following an expansionist, occupationist, policy towards the Muslims and Arab countries of the region.

The long-term objectives of the Zionist regime can be analyzed from both economic and political dimensions.

After the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, Israel has been planning to fill the power vacuum in the area. It is very crucial for Israel to boost its relationship with Russia while retaining its intimate ties with the West. In pursuance of this objective the Zionist regime intends to expand its domination from the Middle East to Central Asia.

This expansion on the one hand aims at having a considerable share of Central Asia's lucrative market, and on the other, tries to prevent anti-Israeli regional countries to enter that market.

One of the long-term purposes of Israel in the post-peace era is to use Arab oil revenues to develop its economy. This is not possible unless Israel succeeds to impose its terms on the Arabs in its peace negotiations. Thus, Israel will spare no effort to obtain as much advantages as possible in its negotiations with the Arabs. At the same time Israel will not halt its aggressions against the Muslim nations who have borne the brunt of Israeli expansionism.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

NATO...

northeast of Sarajevo.

"With the detonation this morning we have destroyed about 130 tons and we expect to have destroyed 200 tons by this time tomorrow (Thursday)," said IFOR spokesman Major Bret Boudreau.

Around 300 tons of weapons were found at this site, in a derelict school, on August 5 in direct contravention of the Dayton peace accords.

The next day, Serb authorities handed over a list of 17 weapons cantonment sites, including Margetici, which they should have given to IFOR in April.

The other 16 sites contain some 3,000 tons of ammunitions and explosives, and are being investigated, Boudreau told a news conference.

"Those additional 16 sites are still under review. We expect a decision fairly shortly," he said.

Asked if the weapons may also be blown up, he said: "All options are under consideration." The Dayton Accord gives IFOR the right to destroy unauthorized dumps.

Boudreau said Serb officials in nearby Sokolac had raised fears of a risk of pollution due to the explosions, but that IFOR was happy with the situation.

Serb officials, including the interim Serb President Biljana Plavsic, have heavily criticized IFOR for the operation, warning of serious consequences if it completed the destruction of the weapons.

However Boudreau noted out that no obstacles had been placed in the way of the 2,000-strong IFOR troops involved in the operation, and the Serb attitude would be taken into consideration when deciding what to do about the other 16 sites.

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

RUSSIAN...

on. The attack could not be independently confirmed.

Meanwhile a pro-Russian Chechen official cited by ITAR-TASS news agency said 12 civilians were killed when two unmarked helicopter gunships strafed a column of refugees 15 kilometers (11 miles) southeast of Grozny.

Ruslan Avtayev said women and children were among the dead. The attack late Tuesday could not be immediately confirmed by Chechen sources.

Avtayev said the column had been using an exit route from Grozny unauthorized by the Russians, in the northeast of the city.

Earlier, ITAR-TASS quoted the Russian military command saying that Russian artillery had unleashed a fierce bombardment of Chechen positions in the capital Grozny, igniting fires in several districts.

The shelling, which reached a rate of more than 10 rounds per minute, died down after about an hour, it added.

It seriously endangered the evacuation of civilians trying to escape from the devastated city via the corridor to the village of Staraya Sunzha.

Thousands of civilians were still trying to get out of the Chechen capital before the expiry of a 48-hour ultimatum announced late Monday by the interim Russian commander in Chechnya, General Konstantin Pulikovsky.

World leaders expressed concern over renewed fighting in Chechnya Wednesday as Russian artillery unleashed fierce bombardment of Chechen positions and Russian national security chief Alexander Lebed left for Chechnya to head off an all-out Russian offensive on the city.

Britain renewed its call for dialogue.

France called on the warring sides to stop fighting and resume talking, as the latest cease-fire in the breakaway republic broke down.

The commander of Russian troops in Chechnya "made an error" in threatening to storm the Chechen capital of Grozny, Defense Minister Igor Rodionov said Wednesday.

Rodionov, quoted by ITAR-TASS, said that General Konstantin Pulikovsky was not sufficiently high ranking to make such a threat and that he had only "acted on his own initiative" and for this had been "reprimanded."

(AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

ARABS...

the meeting, Ibrahim Othman, said his country refused to allow Israel to be the only nuclear power in the area because it threatened the region.

Officials from the Arab League's military department as well as the head of the AAEA, Mahmoud Barakat, were also prusent at the landmark two-day meeting.

Arab League officials have said Barakat was to submit to the meeting a report "containing information from several intelligence services" about Israel's nuclear strength.

(AFP)



President Rafsanjai's Visit to Isfahan in Photos



ISFAHAN (August 20): President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani inaugurates the provincial network of Isfahan Radio and Television. The building has three radio studios, one television studio and edit and control rooms.



ISFAHAN (August 20): President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani visits Isfahan's Decorative Arts Museum after inauguration.



ISFAHAN (August 20): President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani inspects Qaem-2 project at Isfahan Steel Mill.



ISFAHAN (August 20): President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani opens Isfahan's Sports and Football Stadium.



ISFAHAN (August 20): President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani inaugurates Isfahan's giant Alloy Steel Complex.



ISFAHAN (August 20): President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani inaugurates Isfahan's Birds' Sanctuary.



ISFAHAN (August 20): President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani addresses a gathering of college students and professors following the opening ceremony of the Isfahan Physical Education University.



ISFAHAN (August 20): President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani visits the 3-story bridge of Isfahan following the inauguration ceremony.

Father Kills Offspring Before Ending His Life

DHAKA — An unemployed Bangladeshi man hacked to death his three small children and wounded four other people before hanging himself.

Abul Hashim, 40, an out-of-work logger from the northeastern Habiganj district, went on a rampage after he returned home penniless late Monday to his starved family, Banglabazar Patrika and other dailies reported Wednesday.

Hashim, armed with a knife, first attacked and wounded his neighbors, a couple who allegedly failed to pay their debts to him.

(AFP)

Swiss Physicist Commits Suicide on Board Plane

GENEVA — A Swiss physicist committed suicide on a British Airways plane minutes after it landed in Geneva earlier this week, airport officials said Wednesday.

The unidentified man stabbed himself in the heart with his Swiss knife shortly after Flight 703 from London landed.

Authorities said he had cut short a visit to the U.S. to return to Switzerland. His wife and psychologist were waiting for him at the airport when the tragedy took place.

(AFP)



HANOI, Vietnam (August 21): People take boats on a flooded street on the southern bank of the Red River in Hanoi. Water in the river has reached the most alarming level. In almost all other northern Vietnam rivers, the water continues to rise up causing serious floods in some northern regions of the country.

(AFP PHOTO)

S. African Police Investigate Possible International Body-Part Smuggling Ring

PRETORIA — South African police and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) are investigating a possible "White Ivory" body part smuggling ring linked to Belgium's child-murder discoveries and a strikingly similar local case, police said Wednesday.

Police Director Reggie Marimuthu told AFP that South African, Belgian and U.S. investigators had been informed of the "uncanny" resemblance of cases in Belgium and South Africa in which abducted girls are known or believed to have been held captive by paedophiles.

Police recently discovered two abducted girls and another two child corpses in separate houses owned by a convicted Belgian rapist, Marc Dutroux. Another two teenagers missing since August 1995 are also believed to have been held captive at one point by Dutroux.

The scandal harks to a South African case in which five missing girls have been linked to a deceased Pretoria paedophile, Gert Van Rooyen, Marimuthu said, adding that police have not ruled out links with the unsolved disappearance of 27 other South African children in the past three years.

A four-member South African team has joined the FBI in probing the cases, he said, adding that Belgian police are expected to respond to South Africa's queries "very soon," Marimuthu added.

Belgian police began investigating an international sex ring Tuesday following the macabre discovery of the bodies two eight-year-old girls buried in a house owned Dutroux.

Both girls, Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo, are believed to have been starved to death.

Two other girls, Laetitia Delhez, 14, and Sabine Dardenne, 12, were earlier freed from another of Dutroux' numerous homes after being held captive. Authorities are also searching for two teenagers, An Marchal, 17, and Eefje Lambreks, 19, believed to have fallen victim to Dutroux.

(AFP)

Noise on TWA Tape Recording Suggests Fuel Explosion

WASHINGTON — The loud noise at the end of the cockpit tape recording from TWA Flight 800 is more consistent with the sound of a fuel explosion than a bomb going off, the *Washington Post* said Wednesday.

Quoting sources close to the investigation into the July 17 ocean crash off New York's Long Island that killed all 230 people on board, the daily said the sound did not compare to the bomb that brought down a Pan Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988.

Nevertheless, investigators have concluded that the recording probably will not provide clues to the cause of the second worst air disaster on U.S. territory.

"The recording didn't tell us what we needed to know," one senior law enforcement official was quoted as saying. "This is very frustrating," he added.

The sound, which abruptly ends the cockpit recording, was compared to recordings from past airplane bombings, fuel tank explosions and structural disasters. No exact matching sound was found.

(AFP)

South Korean President Declares War on Campus Activism

SEOUL — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam declared war on radical students Wednesday as North Korea said that two Southern students had started a hunger strike to protest the crackdown.

"I will not tolerate pro-North Korean and violent student groups advocating communism," Kim told a meeting of college deans and university presidents.

It was the strongest warning issued by Kim, a former dissident who took office in early 1993, toward South Korean radical students affiliated with the outlawed Federation of Student Councils or Hanchongryon.

It followed the arrest of some 3,500 student radicals in a massive raid, backed by helicopters, Tuesday on Seoul's Yonsei University campus.

Opposition legislators urged Kim not to overreact, and North Korea demanded an immediate release of all the students, calling them "champions of independence, democracy and reunification."

Meanwhile two South Korean students, sent by Hanchongryon to Pyongyang, launched an indefinite hunger strike Wednesday on the northern side of Panmunjom, the truce village in the Demilitarized Zone, a North Korean report said.

On Wednesday, a 20-year-old riot policeman was listed as brain dead after being hit by a rock during Tuesday's raid, a national police hospital spokesman said.

A newspaper photographer, also hit by a rock, has undergone brain surgery and is in critical condition.

The students have called for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from South Korea and the repeal of the nation security law, a draconian legislation, banning contacts with the North.

(AFP)

De Klerk Accepts Responsibility for Apartheid Crimes

CAPE TOWN — Former President Frederik Willem de Klerk admitted overall responsibility Wednesday for human right abuses committed while he headed South Africa's white-minority government from 1989 and 1994.

In a 30-page submission to a hearing of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission here, De Klerk denied, however, that he had ever authorized "assassination, murder, torture, rape, assault or the like."

De Klerk argued that responsibility for "specific incidents, occurrences, deeds and transgressions" should fall on the Cabinet of the former apartheid government, individual ministers, commanding officers in the army and police, and the State Security Council, which was the inner chamber of apartheid's security apparatus.

(AFP)

Arab Prince Forced to Walk in Cannes

CANNES, France — An Arab prince was forced to walk after his gleaming Ferrari sports car, which he had flown specially from Abu Dhabi, was found to be stolen property, police in Cannes said Wednesday.

The prince, who was not identified, could prove he had bought the prestigious car from a dealer in the United Arab Emirates, but police said it had been stolen in Italy, and promptly confiscated it.

The prince, who was pulled up on the famous Croisette seafront drive Tuesday, was forced to rent another one.

Tuesday was not a good day for UAE dignitaries: On the same day another UAE prince had 500,000 francs ($100,000) worth of valuables stolen from his room at the Noga Hilton Hotel on the Croisette, police said.

(AFP)

Romanian Health and Culture Ministers Resign

BUCHAREST — Romanian Health Minister Iulian Mincu and Culture Minister Viorel Marginean submitted their resignations Wednesday for "personal reasons," Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu announced on national radio.

He said that he would examine their request and render a decision in coming days.

Vacaroiu, who had previously denied that he was considering a reshuffle, on Wednesday admitted he was considering some changes.

Mincu, 69, the former personal doctor to dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, has faced repeated calls for his resignation after being implicated in several scandals since he was appointed in 1992.

He had been notably criticized for a worsening health system, the export of contaminated plasma to Germany and the distribution of free medicines.

The World Bank, which lent $180 million to the Health Ministry, also accused him of mismanaging the cash and deplored its working relationship with his office.

Margineau, 62, who was appointed culture minister in May 1995, had also been criticized for not being agressive enough in his sector.

He was previously head of the national arts museum and said after resigning that he planned to take up painting again.

(AFP)

TEHRAN TIMES

Special Issue on Government Week

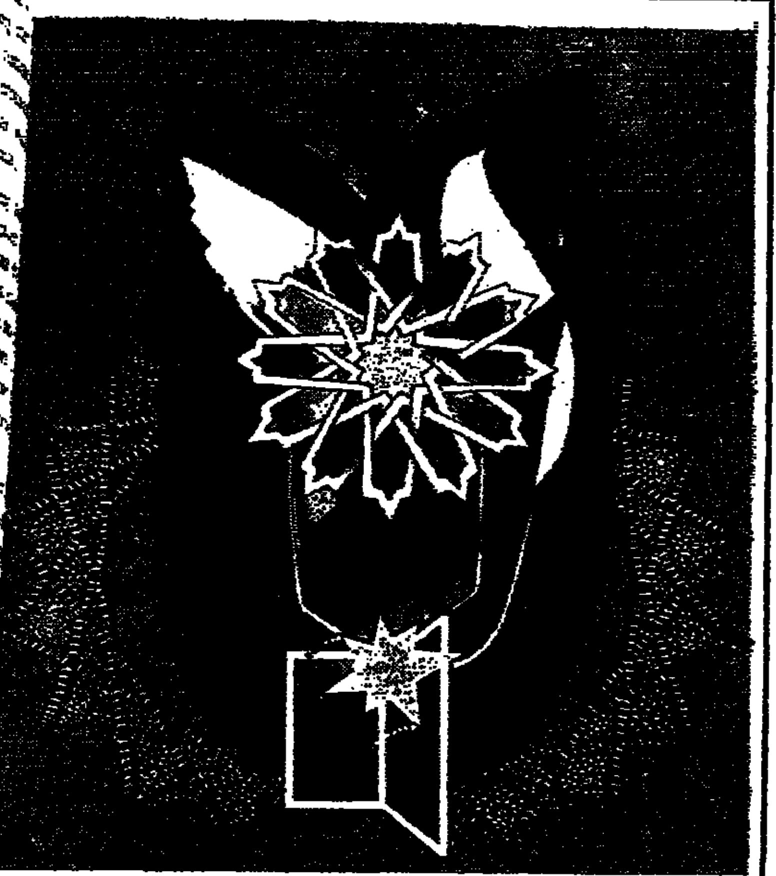
THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 1996; SHAHRIVAR 1, 1375; RABIUL-SANI 6, 1417

Steps Toward Construction

On the Occasion of the Government Week

The System of Islamic Government

Government, from the Islamic point of view, is not a product of any class position or the supremacy of an individual or a group. Rather, it is the crystallization of political ideals of a people of the same religion and thought which gives itself organization so that in the process of changing the thoughts and beliefs, it opens the way towards the final goal, moving towards God.



Our nation, in the process of its revolutionary evolution, cleansed itself of the filth of tyranny and shed alien thoughts in order to be able to return to the original mode of thinking and world view of Islam. Now it is on the threshold of building an exemplary society (aswah) on the basis of this foundation.

The purpose of an Islamic constitution is to create conditions for the foundation of the beliefs of the movement and bring about conditions whereby humanity is nourished by higher values and Islamic cosmology.

With due regard to the Islamic content of the Iranian Revolution, which was a movement for the victory of all deprived against oppressors, the constitution of the Islamic Republic prepared the grounds internally and externally for the continuation of the Revolution, particularly in the spreading of international relations with other Islamic and popular movements, as it tries to prepare the way for the advent of a unified world community. *Surely this Islam is your religion, one religion (only), and I am your Lord, therefore; serve Me* (Qoran 21:92).

As the continuation of the seeking of salvation for the deprived and oppressed people all over the world, with attention to the nature of this great movement, the constitution is the guarantor against any form of social or intellectual tyranny and economic monopoly. Putting aside the despotic system, it endeavors to let the people decide their own destiny.

In laying new political foundations and institutions which are themselves the bases of the formation of our society, which is based upon the precepts of a school of thought, the righteous will be responsible for governing and administering the country. And *certainly We wrote in the country book after the reminder that (as for) the land, My righteous servants shall inherit it* (Qoran 21:105).

Legislation, which is the expressor of the management of society's laws, is determined by the Qoran and the Tradition. Thus, the detailed and serious supervision of just, pious and committed persons, knowledgeable about Islam, is a decreed and essential matter.

The purpose of government is to cause people to move towards divine order [*..and to Allah is the eventual coming* (24:42)], and to prepare the ground for the manifestation and flourishing of talents to enable the divine dimension of human beings to blossom. This cannot be achieved without the active and widespread participation of all elements of society in the process of social evolution.

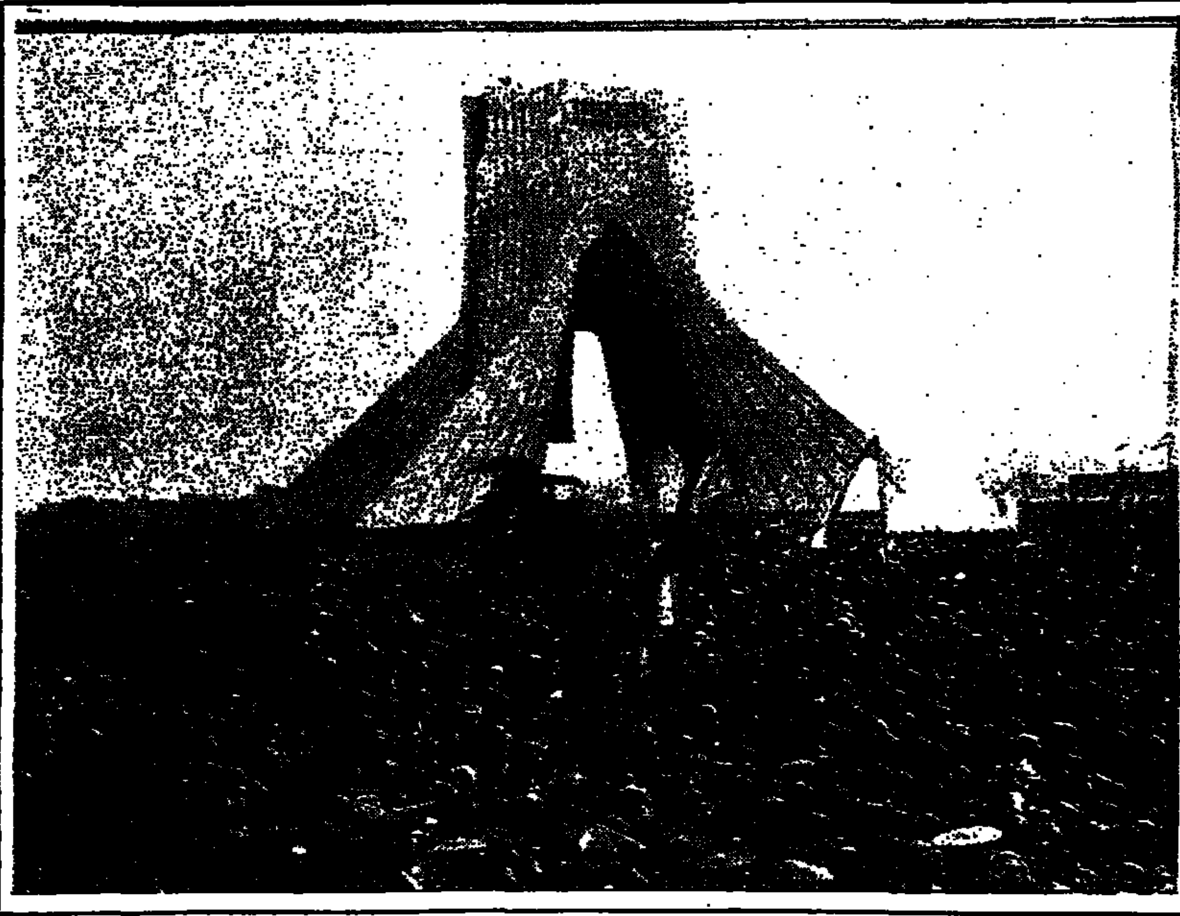
With attention to this aspect of the Islamic constitution, the groundwork for such participation is prepared at all levels of political and destiny-making decisions for all groups of society so that upon the way of human evolution, each individual will be involved and responsible for the growth, development and leadership of society. This will be the very realization of the government of the deprived on earth. *(And We desired to show favor unto those who were oppressed in the earth, and to make them examples and to make them the inheritors* (Qoran 28:5).

After the establishment of the Islamic Republic, the drafting of its constitution was a task of utmost priority for creation of the practical basis for the functioning of the Islamic state. A nationwide polling was held on August 3, 1979 in order to elect the experts consisted of severally-two members.

The Assembly of Experts, consisting of a large number of Islamologists and Islamic jurisprudents (*fuqaha*) working under a pervasive Islamic spirit and with the overwhelming support of Imam Khomeini and the nation, working day and night, eventually finished the task of compilation of the constitution in a period of little more than three months. The final text of the constitution was ultimately put to a plebiscite on December 3, 1979, and was endorsed by Imam Khomeini and the people by a vote of 99.5 percent majority. The constitution, thus ratified, set forth all the basic policy outlines of the Islamic Republic the well-defined foundation of the Qoran and the Tradition of the Holy Prophet.

After the ratification of the constitution, it was necessary that all the official organs of the country should take their practical shape. To do this, first of all the president of the Islamic Republic was elected and the orders for holding elections for the Consultative Assembly (Majlis) were issued.

Imam Khomeini, in his various speeches, repeatedly emphasized the importance of the Majlis and the qualities that Majlis deputies should possess. For instance, in his speech on February 17, 1980, he told the people: "Send such deputies to the Islamic Consultative Assembly who are committed, thoughtful and sympathetic towards the people in general--and the oppressed classes in particular--and are servants of Islam and Muslims."



Again on March 11, 1980, three days before the first round of elections, he said in a message: "It is hoped that the committed and struggling nation will give their votes only to such persons as are loyal to the beloved Islam and the constitution of the Islamic Republic, and only after a keen study of the past background of individuals and groups. Give your vote to those who are free of both rightist or leftist leanings and are will known for their respectable past and for their commitment to the laws of Islam and devotion to the welfare of the entire Muslim *ummah.*"

Under the guidance of the Imam and the vigilance of the people, the first round of elections was held on March 14, 1980, and 97 deputies won elections throughout the country. The elections of the remainder of the deputies were assigned to the second round. In the interval before the second round of elections, the Imam continued to emphasize the criteria of mental maturity and moral capability in elected candidates.

On May 9,1980 the second round of elections commenced. This time 137 candidates were elected making total of 234. These number was more than 180, the number required for the Majlis to hold official sessions.

On the occasion of "Government Week" and with regard to the point that, president is the head of "executive body", thus it is appropriate to review some of the articles of the constitution pertaining to the presidency and presidential elections.

Article 113: The president is the highest official position of the country after the position of Leader. The president is responsible for implementing the constitution, regulating the three branches of government and directing the executive branch except in cases which relate directly to the Leader.

Article (114): The president shall be elected for a four-year term by direct general ballot. The president may be reelected for only one successive term.

Article 115: The president shall be elected from among religious and political personalities possessing the following qualification: A natural-Iranian of Iranian parentage possessing Iranian nationality; *initiator and organizer* of good name; trustworthy and pious; believing in the tenets of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the official creed of the country.

Article 116: Candidates for the office of presidency must officially announce their candidacy before the commencement of elections. The manner of conducting the elections shall be determined by law.

Article 117: The president shall be elected by an absolute majority of the votes cast in the elections. If, however, none of the candidates can secure such majority, a second round of elections will be held on Friday of the following week. Only two candidates winning the highest number of votes on the first round will be allowed to participate in the second poll. Likewise, if some of the candidates having the highest number of votes should abstain from participating in the second poll, two of the remaining candidates securing the largest majority of votes in the first poll shall again be put forward for presidency.

Article 118: The responsibility to supervise presidential elections shall rest in accordance with Article 99 of the constitution with the Guardianship council, but prior to formation of the first session of this council, a supervisory board, appointed by law for this purpose, shall preside over the elections.

Article 122: The president is responsible to the nation, within the limits of his duties and authority. The manner of dealing with any violations shall be determined by law.

Article 123: The president is obliged to sign laws approved by the assembly or the results of a referendum after being dully passed and sent to the president . The president will then put them at the disposal of relevant authorities for implementation.

Article 124: The president shall suggest an individual to assume the position of prime minister. Once the designated has been approved by the assembly, the president shall endorse the appointment.

Article 125: The president or the legal representative of this office shall sign treaties, agreements and contracts agreed upon by the government of Iran with other government and any agreements of international unions after they are ratified by the assembly.

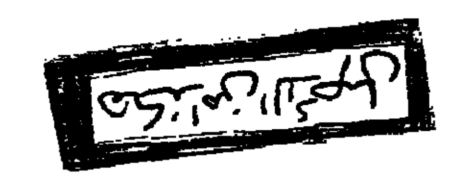
Article 126: Government decrees and regulations, after being approved by the Council of Ministers, shall be brought to the attention of the president. Should the president feel that such regulations contravene the current rules of the nation, the president will send them back to the Council of Ministers for reviewing, giving due reasons for not accepting them.

Article 128: The president shall sign the credentials of Iranian ambassadors and receive the credentials of foreign ambassadors to Iran.

Article 129: Government honors and decorations shall be awarded by the president.

Article 130: In the absence of the president due to illness or other reasons, a provisional council composed of the prime minister, president of the assembly and president of the Supreme Court, shall perform the duties of the president provided the absence does not exceed two months; or, in the event of dismissal of the president, or when the term of the president has not yet been elected due to certain problems, the duties of the presidency shall be performed by the same.

(Courtesy the Echo of Islam)



2nd Five-Year Plan, Meeting Iran's Economic Needs

Iran's first Five-Year Social and Economic Development plan — or the First Plan as it is generally termed for brevity — which was implemented during the period 1989-1993, was in many ways successful, but had its own share of failures. Its successes and failures helped reveal certain characteristics of Iran's economic structure and the impediments that exist on the way of developments in this country. These findings were helpful in shaping and implementing the Second Plan which began in 1994.



Iran's legislative body has made good use of the experiences of the First Plan and the lessons learnt from it, to improve upon the Second Plan and all the future plannings of the country.

The First Plan had to deal with the consequences of the war as a priority: the war with Iraq was imposed upon Iran when it was least prepared for it; it brought devastation, ruins, undesirable migrations etc; and all these meant over $1,000 billion of damages and losses which the First Plan had to deal with.

The major impediments on the way of the First Plan were population and liquidity expansions, multiple values for foreign exchange and increasing inflation. These slowed down the rate of progress and achievements of the First-Plan. Even so, the Plan achieved many objectives despite such impediments: many war-damaged production units were reconstructed; new projects were executed; war-stricken areas were rebuilt; immigrants returned to their homes; electric power production was expanded etc.

To the already very heavy burdens of the First Plan, were added such catastrophes as the earth quake which devastated northern parts of Iran, and floods in some southern and eastern regions which took up a good part of the financial resources that had been allocated to the First Plan and its objectives.

Towards the end of the First Five-Year Plan, privatization of parts of the production and educational systems became a serious issue; that is the government of the Islamic Republic began to transfer various public sector industries to the private sector in order to bring about serious improvements in the economy of Iran.

The major objectives of the Islamic Republic's First Plan included:

*Rapid movement towards a balanced and well-developed economy,

*Transfer of greater and greater parts of the economy to the private sector,

*Protection of the lower-income brackets of the community,

*A shift from a centralized economy to a non-centralized (regional) economic structure.

While endeavoring to achieve these objectives, however, the government had to spend a good portion of the country's financial resources to satisfy the basic needs of the community in the form of subsidies and other state aids.

According to statistics available, during the First Five-Year Social & Economic Development Plan:

* Gross domestic product (GDP), on the basis of 1988 factor prices, increased by 7.3%,

* Per capita GDP increased from 197,000 Rls at the start of the Plan to 246,000 Rls in 1993, And during the same period (of the plan):

* Fixed gross domestic investments increased by 13.3%,

* Private consumption increased by 7.7% per annum,

* Public Consumption increased by 5.5% per annum,

* The ratio of fixed gross domestic investments to gross domestic product (GDP) which had been declining thus far, rose from 12.4% in 1988 to 16.3% in 1993.

The Second Plan was drawn up on the basis of the achievements and failures of the First Plan and within the limitations and sanctions of the Islamic Republic's Constitution in which the long-term objectives for the future of the Iranian community has been specified as below, and which holds the government responsible for achieving them:

1- Providing the basic needs of the community such as housing, food, clothing, health and medical treatment, education and cultural development as well as the needs of the members of the society towards raising families.

2- Providing suitable work and employment for every member of the society who is able to work.

3- Environmental protection.

4- Development and expansion of the country's agriculture, animal husbandry and heavy and light industries.

5- Self-sufficiency.

The aims clearly show the course the Second Plan must follow, and what it should attempt to achieve. Furthermore, the Second Plan is designed to modify and improve the administrative and economic structures of the state within the Five-Year Plan period.

The Plan specifies the bills that the government should submit to the Majlis (Islamic Republic Parliament) and which would make the aims of the plan achievable. The bills are to be submitted by specified dates and this indicates that there is an awareness of the shortage of time and of the need of prompt and speedy action. The Plan's policies consist in particular of a number of key elements, as follows:

Information and Statistics

The Plan demands that the government should, within the first 6 months of the plan period, prepare a bill for the formation of a "National Iranian Institution for Economic and Social Information". This would be an organization for gathering, classifying and publishing information and statistics regarding the country's able work-force and its economic, industrial, commercial, agricultural and financial indices; and to provide comparisons of such facts and figures and to draw conclusions.

Census

Availability of full information on population growth, plans envisaged to control this growth, clear outlines of the nation's social and economic pattern, and the characteristics of the community are necessary for any social and economic development program. The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is required to prepare and submit a bill to the Majlis — within the first four months of the Second Plan — titled "Regulation for Comprehensive Census of Human Resources". The bill must take into account all the characteristics of the community and specially facts regarding the work-force, whether employed or not; it must also provide for such groups within the society as tribes, ethnic groups and minorities, adolescents, Iranians residing abroad etc.

Planning

The government is required to submit, within the first 6 months of the plan period, a bill titled "Regulations Regarding the Preparation of Economic, Social and Cultural Programs." The Bill must consider as a principle, the cooperation of the members of the society towards preparations of future programs, beginning at the village level and moving up to towns and counties, covering the entire country.

Public Education

The First Plan brought about certain modification in the educational system particularly as regards the transfer of a part of the system to the private sector. Further modifications are aimed for in the Second Plan and the government is expected to submit a bill to the Majlis, during the second year of the Second Plan, titled "The Educational System" which must include comprehensive programs for" production and publication of books and journals; audio-visual and other educational aids; teacher's training courses; regulations regarding remuneration and salaries for the employees of the educational system; employment incentives; priorities for the underdeveloped regions of the country; and measures envisaged for an efficient national-wide educational system.

Environment

The Second Social and Economic Development Plan gives special importance to environmental conditions: to air and soil pollution and how to combat them; to expansion of green spaces; and to eliminating deserts and wastelands. The relevant bill must be prepared by the government and submitted to the Majlis — under the title of "Environmental Revival and Protection Program" — within the first year of the Plan period.

Infrastructures and Communications

The Plan also requires that government should present a bill titled "Regulations Regarding Communications and Connections". The bill must take into account the long-term (up to the year 2020) needs of the country in infrastructure, communications, transportation etc, and the means of procurement of the necessary capital and investments.

The bill must provide for such considerations as domestic economic and population developments, and economic and trade relations in the region.

Protection of Intellectual Resources and Talents

The plan gives special importance to the nation's talents and



intellectual properties. A bill is to be prepared under the title of "Regulation for Establishment of Higher Education Institutions and for Exceptionally Talented Students." The bill is to be presented within the first 6 months of the Second Plan and must provide for finding specially gifted children, adolescents, and students of all ages and to educate them to the highest levels possible and to provide for such students full-time education as well as boarding facilities, including boarding schools.

Mothers' Education and Training

The Plan stresses the importance of the role that mothers play in the formation of a society and its human resources, through the manner of raising children specially in the early years of the child's life. Educating mothers, as a long-term program, is one of the Second Plan's priorities and the government is expected to present a bill in this regard within the first 9 months of the plan period. The bill is to be titled "Eradication of Illiteracy and Raising the Level of Education of Mothers." The plan aims to eradicate illiteracy beginning at homes and with families.

Government Structure

The constantly increasing volume of the country's budget before and during the First Plan has brought a heavy burden upon the Iranian government which now has to make a serious effort towards cutting down on expenses, reducing the colossal bureaucratic structure, ie the number of its employees, and shrinking or dissolving those organizations whose existence is not essential. At the same time the work that can be done by the private sector, that is by the people, should be handed over to them. Besides any work that need to be carried out by the public sector (for strategic reasons) more and more tasks should be transferred to the people. Much construction and non-strategic production activities are now handled by the state which the private sector could handle more efficiently. The government's major responsibility is in guiding and helping the society to move towards wider social and economic development.

The Tax System

Internal financial resources are the most important means of providing investments for social and economic developments. Apart from Iran's oil revenues the important source of income for the state is through taxes. The state needs to have more efficient methods and means of exacting taxes. All merchants and businesses must have "trade codes" for easier identification by tax authorities, and to enable these authorities to have greater knowledge of commercial transactions. Any improvement in the tax system which would result in better distribution of wealth in society, must be aimed for.

Taxes are specially important for the future development of Iran because the country's oil revenues cannot be depended upon for drawing up future budgets, since presently oil prices in world markets fluctuate significantly.

The government must prepare and submit a bill titled "The New Tax System", within the first year of the Second Plan. The bill must embrace all direct and indirect taxes, and all other charges of any kind that would have the nature of taxation.

Public Sector Employment

A bill shall be presented by the government within the first year of the plan under the title of "Employment in the Public Sector," which shall have as its objective improvements in the standards of skill and knowledge among the civil servants and better work and living conditions. The bill shall deal with such matters as attracting to, and keeping in the public sector, capable personnel and drawing up clear and exact regulations for their employment, promotion, retirement and remuneration according to each person's worth.

Labor Regulations

For a long time now certain shortcomings in Iran's labor regulations have been felt; specially during the First Plan they became more evident. Therefore, the Second Plan envisages certain modifications in the old labor act and the government is required to prepare a bill in this regard under the heading "Amendments to the Labor Act and Islamic Labor Councils". The aims of the bill will be to set out regulations regarding management and labor relations, their rights and responsibilities vis-a-vis one another and improvements in working conditions with a view towards expansion and development of production and rise in living standards.

(To be contd)



Battling Meningitis

It was 7 a.m. when I arrived at the hospital. I was heading to the doctors' offices when a faint mewling began outside. An ambulance was backing up. I gulped a mouthful of coffee and headed out.

The ambulance bay doors hissed open. A young woman's voice screamed: "Leave me alone!"

Four stout paramedics pinned the girl down. Ann, the head nurse, and I converged on the stretcher. The nearest medic filled us in.

"Virginia Carlson, 22-year-old, horrendous headache at 4 a.m. Vomited twice. Then, the parents say, she got like this. Been fighting *the flue for a couple of days.*"

The medics hung on so we could tie soft restraints around her wrists and ankles.

A brain hemorrhage was still possible, but the flue-like symptoms described by her parents suggested a new contender: meningitis, an inflammation of the membranes enveloping the brain and spinal cord that is usually caused by a bacterial infection.

While the staff wrestled Virginia into restraints, I found her parents.

"What do you think is wrong, doctor?" Mrs. Carlson asked.

"I can't say yet, but I need to ask some personal questions very quickly."

"Please."

"Does your daughter use any kind of drugs or drink alcohol?"

"No, never," came the firm reply. "I know she's used marijuana now and then, but she's a sweet, responsible, wonderful kid."

"Medications? Even over-the-counter?"

"No."

"She hasn't been under more stress lately, she's never taken pills or tried to hurt herself?"

"No."

"And no penicillin allergy? She's taken it before?"

"No allergy and yes, she's taken it." Just then, Ann called out: "Rectal temp 101." "Be right back," I said.

"You thinking what I'm thinking?" Ann asked as I approached her.

"Meningitis — although there's still a small chance of a bleed, even with the fever," I answered. "But what she needs right now is penicillin — lots and fast. Four million units. Repeat in four hours."

"And after the penicillin?"

"CT scan first, then spinal tap."

"Sedation?" Ann asked.

"Tons. She needs to be still for both. We can't just pin her down."

The meninges make up the protective wrapping of the brain and spinal cord. There are three layers *of meninges, running from fore*brain to spinal cord, which is why there is no such thing as exclusively "spinal" meningitis.

The innermost membrane — the meshlike pia mater — hugs the surface of the brain and spinal cord like shrink-wrap. The outermost membrane is the dense dura mater. Sandwiched between is the arachnoid, a loose-fitting membrane that holds the cerebrospinal fluid, or CSF. This fluid-filled compartment insulates the fragile brain from damaging jolts, and it is here that meningitis-causing bacteria can flourish.

If a patient is battling an infection as life-threatening as meningitis, antibiotics should be given immediately. Unfortunately, doctors are often reluctant to fire such heavy antibiotic artillery without having lab results that prove infection. So some doctors wait for a cell count before starting lifesaving antibiotics.

In addition, doctors want to make an accurate diagnosis, and if they give antibiotics before they do a spinal tap, the lab culture will turn up negative.

The way around this is to give antibiotics promptly and then use tests that detect antibodies to bacteria rather than the bacteria themselves.

In a healthy young woman such as Virginia, I knew there could be only two major contenders, and both bacteria, the *pneumococcus* and the *meningococcus*, are vulnerable to penicillin.

The drug dripped into Virginia's IV line. Fifty minutes had passed since Virginia arrived, and it had taken that long to get her restrained and prepared for treatment. I prayed the delay wouldn't make a difference.

Ann brought Virginia's parents over. "Did you see the faint rash on her chest, doctor?" Mrs. Carlson asked.

My alarm bells went off. In all the uproar, we hadn't done a skin exam. Ann pulled back the sheet. Virginia's chest and abdomen were speckled with little red bumps.

Even more deadly than meningitis is *meningococcemia*, a condition in which meningococcal bacteria spread through the bloodstream and produce a peculiar rash.

Meningococcemia can dispatch its victims within a few hours of symptom onset. I suddenly wanted those 50 minutes back very, very badly.

The meningococcus bacterium, technically known as Neisseria meningitidis, is so common that many of us harbor them in our noses and other mucous membranes.

Fortunately, antibodies on our mucous membranes usually snag any invaders. But, in rare cases, a virulent strain of N. meningitidis manages to penetrate mucosal cells in our respiratory tract.

They somehow masquerade as a familiar cellular import, duping the cells into swallowing them up in membrane-bound capsules and ferrying them to capillaries beneath the mucosal barrier.

Once in the bloodstream, they display the same molecular ornamentation as red blood cells. Thus disguised, they slip through the blood-brain barrier and run riot in the defenseless CSF. The result is meningitis.

In meningococcemia, *N. meningitidis* multiplies in the blood, causing so much infection that the immune response can serve out of control.

In a normal immune response, the walls of the blood vessels become more porous to permit immune cells into infected tissue.

But in overwhelming infections, the blood vessels leak so much that blood pressure plummets. Blood pours into the skin and the internal organs, causing massive hemorrhaging.

When there is severe internal bleeding, a blotchy, purplish rash sometimes covers the skin.

Fortunately, Virginia's rash didn't look like that. As it turned out, Virginia's CT scan was negative. No tumor or hemorrhage in the brain.

With a male nurse's bulk blanketing Virginia, and Ann hugging her into a C shape that would expose the spaces between her vertebrae, I performed the spinal tap.

I slipped the needle between two vertebrae and extracted the spinal fluid. It was cloudy, as I expected, but the pressure I detected added to my fears. In a normal patient, the pressure in the spinal canal will not force the CSF above 180 millimeters on the spinal-tap manometer. In Virginia's case, the pressure exceeded 550 — the instrument's highest measure.

That astronomical pressure meant Virginia was fighting an *enormous brain infection.*

When the body fights infection, immune cells gather at the infection site, causing swelling. Virginia's brain was so swollen that she needed to be managed by a neurosurgeon, which our hospital didn't have.

The lab called. Virginia was infected with meningococcus. Unlike pneumococcal bacteria, which tend to cause only isolated cases of meningitis, a virulent strain of meningococcus can cause outbreaks of meningitis in otherwise healthy young people.

The bacteria are spread by close contact or through a sneeze or a cough. Outbreaks tend to crop up in the close quarters of schools or military camps. For unknown reasons, some people suffer invasive infection, while others remain healthy carriers.

We arranged Virginia's transfer to a nearby hospital. By the time she left she was unconscious — an effect, I hoped, of the sedatives we had given.

Ann took along a bag of penicillin to give her en route.

"Virginia's blood pressure hasn't moved a millimeter," I told the Carlsons as they prepared to accompany their daughter. That was good news. When Virginia came in, her blood pressure had been normal. If it was holding steady, the infection was probably not spreading through her bloodstream.

The next morning, Ann greeted me with a rueful look.

"How's Virginia?" I asked.

"She's still unresponsive. The doctors at the other hospital don't sound too optimistic."

My heart sank. Fifty minutes. What had taken us so long?

Still, it was too early to tell.

Two days later the clouds parted a bit.

"Virginia opened her eyes this morning," Ann told me. She would live.

But what about residual brain damage? It can take months for brain injury to show up.

Four weeks later, I called Virginia's mother.

"Oh, Virginia's back at work now and doing pretty well, Dr. Dajer. The worst thing is the headaches — they make her think the meningitis is coming back. They scare her."

But I also knew what Virginia was feeling. Meningitis is a terrible foe, and no matter how fast a doctor acts, it can act faster.

Virginia had been lucky.

(New York Times Syndicate)



According to the National Cancer Institute, two ongoing, Harvard University and Brigham and Women's Hospital studies - one of 48,000 male health professionals, the other of 118,000 female nurses - "provide the strongest evidence yet that cigarette smoking leads to colon cancer."

Men who started smoking before age 30 and accumulated more than 16 "packyears" (a pack a day for 16 years or two packs a day for eight years, for example) were twice as likely to get colorectal cancer as nonsmokers. Women who started smoking before 30 and smoked more than ten pack-years were more than twice as likely as nonsmokers to develop colorectal cancer.

Carcinogens in smoke can reach colon cells via the bloodstream or by being swallowed; these chemicals may then trigger a mutation starting cells on the road to cancer. While a smoker's extra risk of lung cancer diminishes several decades after he quits, and his greater susceptibility to heart disease declines within a few years of stopping, the studies found ex-smokers face the same risk of colorectal cancer as smokers, presumably because the smoke does its damage early.

(American Health)

THOUGHT

WHEN we seek to discover the best in others, we somehow bring out the best in ourselves.

William Arthur Ward

PRAYER

Noon 13:07
Evening 20:04
Dawn (tomorrow) 4:52
Sunrise (tomorrow) 6:30



SCRABBLE GRAMS

BRAND

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Rack	Letters	Scoring
RACK 1	L_1 E_1 E_1 O_1 R_1 P_3 A_1	
RACK 2	T_1 G_2 E_1 I_1 R_1 N_1 N_1	
RACK 3	P_3 M_3 S_1 Y_4 I_1 L_1 I_1	4th Letter Double
RACK 4	W_4 A_1 A_1 O_1 D_2 T_1 R_1	3rd Letter Double

PAR SCORE 90-100

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). **Judd's solution on Saturday**

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Here is the solution to yesterday's Scrabble

SCRABBLE BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

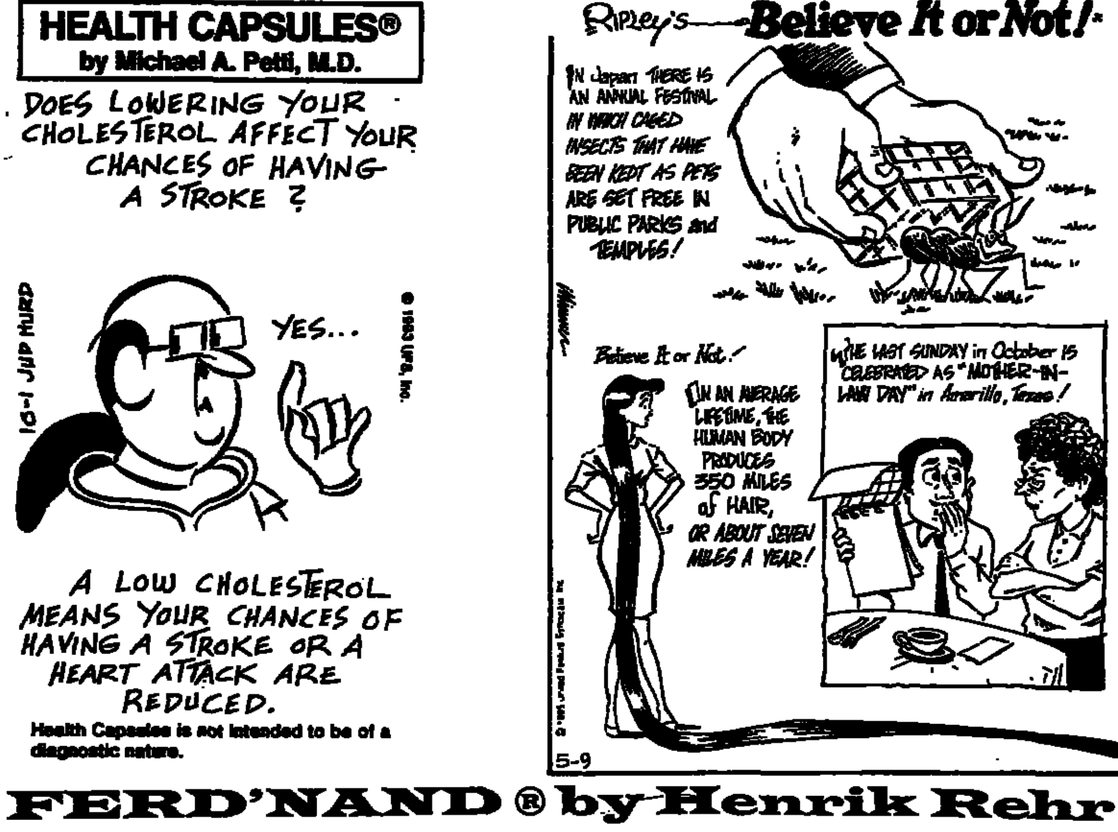
© 1994, United Feature Syndicate, Inc

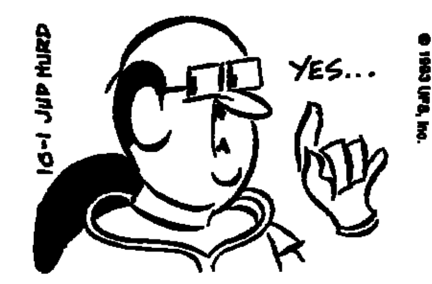
Letters	Rack	Score
B_3 A_1 C_3 K_5 L_1 O_1 G_2	RACK 1	98
C_3 O_1 N_1 T_1 E_1 N_1 D_2	RACK 2	60
G_2 O_1 O_1 B_3 E_1 R_1 S_1	RACK 3	80
M_3 A_1 R_1 C_3 H_4	RACK 4	12

PAR SCORE 165-175 JUDD'S TOTAL 250

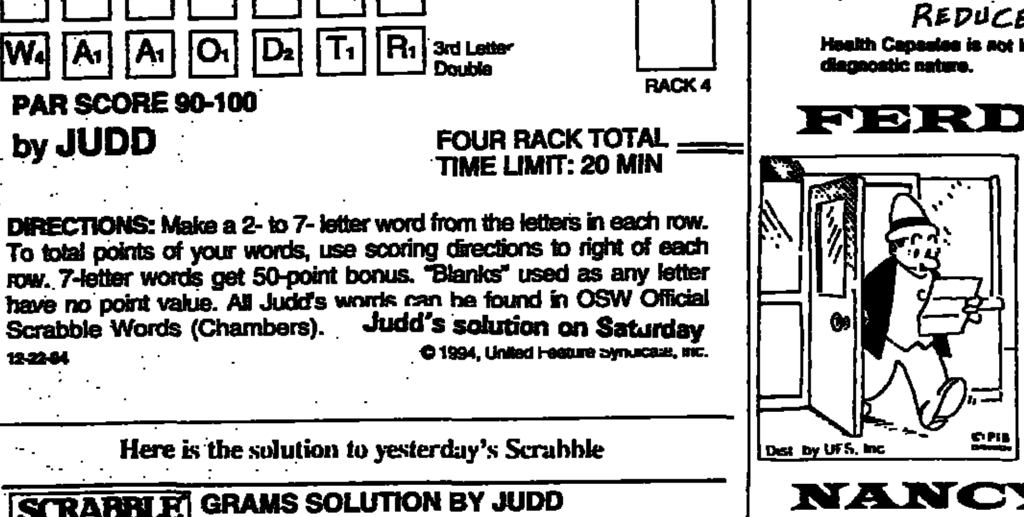
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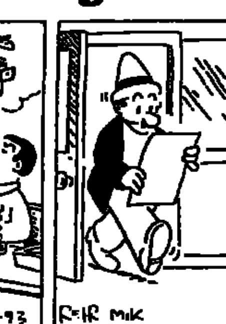


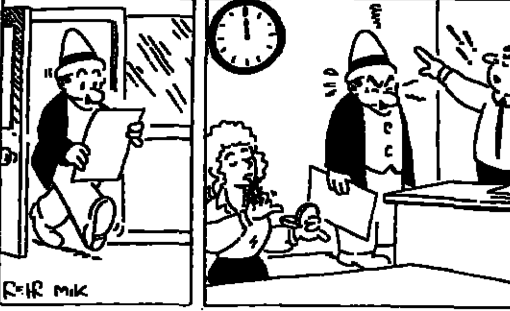


FERD'NAND ® by Henrik Rehr









NANCY ® by Guy & Brad Gilchrist









IN THE NAME OF GOD

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 1001/SA

A GOVERNMENTAL COMPANY INTENDS TO PUT THE PURCHASE OF A COMPLETE "2D, 2D/3D, 3D/2D AND 3D COMBINED HOLOGRAPHY SYSTEM" ON FOB BASIS (DETAILS ARE GIVEN IN THE TENDER DOCS).

FOR PROCURING TENDER DOCUMENTS, TENDERERS ARE REQUESTED TO PAY 50,000 RIALS IN SAKHT-IRAN CO. ACCOUNT NO. 1820 WITH BANK MELLI IRAN, KOUYE DANESHJOOYAN BRANCH AND SUBMIT ITS RECEIPT TO OUR ADDRESS:

NO. 84, 20TH ST., NORTH KARGAR AVE., TEHRAN 14376 NOT LATER THAN 12:00 O'CLOCK NOON TIME, 10.10. 1996.

ENVELOPES OPENING DATE WILL BE AT 3:00 P.M. ON THE SAME DATE.

PAGE 7

Taiwanese Vic... "Secret Trip"...

Destroying Arms ... Pollution: Serb ...





Taiwanese Vice President Pays "Secret Trip" to Third Country

TAIPEI — Taiwanese Vice President Lien Chan has paid a secret visit to a third country which has no ties with Taipei, government officials and newspapers said Monday.

The trip, analysts said, could further anger China, which has viewed Taiwan as a rebel province since the end of a civil war in 1949 and has warned other countries against forging ties with Taipei.

Lien, also premier, was supposed to return to Taiwan from the Dominican Republic where he attended the presidential inauguration.

But he boarded a plane in New York on Sunday for an unnamed destination, Charles Wu, acting government spokesman said.

"The vice president has made a detour to a third country for a private visit, and will return here after his trip," acting government spokesman Charles Wu said.

"The (detour) decision was made in the Dominican Republic and I have no further information on his trip," said Wu.

A Foreign Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, indicated that the country Lien was visiting had no formal ties with Taiwan.

"Do you think that if this was a country which has official relations with us, we would have to keep it (the visit) secret?" he asked rhetorically. Foreign Minister John Chang said: "As a sovereign state, the government will continue to arrange senior leaders to visit countries that do not have diplomatic relations with us, and this is the basic function of a sovereign nation." Vice Foreign Minister Chen Chien-jen who followed Lien to the Dominican Republic said Lien was having a private visit in a "third country" for two to three days. Two leading local newspapers, the *United daily news* and the *China times*, said Lien left for a European country, and Taiwanese unofficial envoys refused to disclose his destination, saying the trip must be kept secret to avoid provoking China's wrath. The *China times express* cited a former foreign ministry official as saying that Lien most wanted to visit France and he could be there. Taiwan signed a contract with France in 1992 to purchase 60 mirage 2000-5 fighters jets, a deal which seriously angered China, which closed the French consulate in Guangzhou in retaliation. The official said Spain is another alternative since a university there has offered to present him with an honorary doctorate degree. But the Foreign Ministry, the French institute in Taipei (fit), and the Spain unofficial representative office all refused to comment. Fit represents the French interest in Taiwan in the absence of diplomatic relations.

The *United Evening News* quoted a "reliable source" as saying Lien was visiting Vienna. But the Austrian trade delegation said it had "no knowledge" of such a trip.

None of the European countries maintain official ties with Taiwan, which is recognized by only 31 nations, mostly Latin American and African nations.

It lodged a strong protest to the United States for granting a transit visa to Lien on his way to the Dominican Republic earlier last week. (AFP)

Burundian Soldiers Kill Three Rwandan Refugees After Riot: UNHCR



NAIROBI — Three Rwandan refugees were killed at the weekend, apparently by soldiers, after a riot in the Magara camp in northern Burundi, a spokeswoman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said Monday.

Millicent Mutuli said that the riot Saturday night erupted after the UNHCR began to consolidate the Magara camp which was emptying of thousands of Rwandan refugees returning to their own country.

Some of the refugees thought this consolidation was an attempt to repatriate them forcibly, she said.

"There was stone throwing ... violence."

The wounded were treated by doctors working for the international charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF - doctors without borders), Mutuli said.

The three refugees killed were just outside the camp, she said.

"It appears they were killed by the military, who have very strict rules; the refugees are not allowed to leave the camps without documentation."

Mutuli said 2,600 of the refugees returned to Rwanda on Saturday, and 1,800 on Sunday.

That brings the number of Rwandan refugees in Burundian camps down to around 40,000.

They are among some two million Rwandan hutus who fled to neighbouring countries after a civil war in 1994, won by an army of rebel tutsis after hutu extremists had slaughtered more than 500,000 men, women and children. (AFP)

Polling Indicates New Zealand Heading for Narrow October Election

WELLINGTON -- General elections in New Zealand on October 12 are likely to leave the current ruling national party as a minority government in coalition with several other parties, opinion polls released Monday indicate.

The elections will be the first under German-style mixed member proportional representation, which will see voters given two ballots. The party ballot will determine the proportion by which the 120 seats in parliament will be allocated to parties. The other vote is for constituency representatives.

State-owned Television New Zealand's (TVNZ) sample of 1000 voters and rival TV3's poll of 500 voters both showed the national party attracting 37 percent support, down one percentage point on last month's TVNZ poll and down five percent on TV3's earlier polling.

Commentators on both networks noted Prime Minister Jim Bolger's trip to South Africa earlier this month had resulted in his party falling in the polls. During the visit, President Nelson Mandela embarrassed Bolger by mistakenly endorsing him for the leadership of Australia, while Bolger sparked controversy by apologising to his South African hosts for the party's 1981 government allowing a Springbok rugby tour of New Zealand.

For the main opposition labour party TVNZ had bad news, showing it had fallen one point to 14 percent support. TV3 had it climbing a point to 20 percent.

New Zealand first was down one point to 20 percent on TVNZ, while TV3 had it down four points to 17 percent.

It is not yet clear how the various parties will form coalitions as the new voting system has not been tested here.

Both polls put potential national coalition partners the Christian Coalition a shade under the 5 percent mark needed to enter parliament, while the pro-free market act scored around the 4 percent mark. (AFP)

Destroying Arms Will Trigger Pollution: Serb Expert

BELGRADE – NATO should not proceed with plans to destroy Serb ammunition seized at an unauthorised site in Bosnia because the explosions will pollute the environment, a Bosnian Serb military expert warned Monday.

The Serb army expert told the official Bosnian Serb News Agency SRNA that the destruction of 300 'tons' of Serb arms, which began earlier Monday, would release radioactive pollution which could harm locals.

"A significant quantity of radioactive dust could be released and affect the environment and the health of the population depriving people of drinking water," the official was quoted as saying by SRNA, which did not give his name.

Ifor troops discovered the Serb arms dump earlier this month at an unauthorised site 40 kilometres (25 miles) northeast of Sarajevo. Under the Dayton peace accords, all arms belonging to the former warring factions should be held at declared weapons sites monitored by Ifor.

The Bosnian Serbs have objected strongly to the destruction of their equipment. (AFP)

Malaysia's Timber-Rich Sarawak State to Hold Polls Early September

KUALA LUMPUR – Malaysia's timber-rich Sarawak state on Borneo island will hold fresh polls in early September, the election commission said Monday.

Sixty-two seats will be contested in the polls to be held over two days beginning September 7, election commission Chairman Harun Din said. Nomination day will be on August 27.

The commission allocated 11 million ringgit (4.4 million dollars) to conduct the election, Harun was quoted by the official Bernama news agency as saying.

Abdul Aaib Mahmud, chief minister of the eastern Malaysia state, dissolved the state legislative assembly last Thursday to pave the way for the fresh polls.

Sarawak joined the Malaysian Federation in 1963.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's national front coalition government dominates the state legislature.

Sarawak is home to the controversial 13.6-billion-ringgit (5.44-billion-dollar) Bakun dam project, which is planned to be the world's second largest hydroelectric dam after China's three river gorges.

A total of 814,347 people in Sarawak will be casting their votes at 1,721 polling stations. (AFP)



KARAK, Jordan (August 17): A Jordan riot policeman faces a demonstrator in the middle of road in the central Karak (180km south of Amman). Residents demonstrated in protest against a steep rise in the price of bread before the Jordanian Army took control of the town. (AFP PHOTO)

Police Learn Foreign Phrases for Their Dogs

DALLAS, Texas -- Dallas residents have reported some strange behavior on the part of their police officers who have been heard barking such incomprehensible orders to their dogs as "sedna" or "sita."

But the Dallas Police Department says there is a simple explanation:

The crime-fighting canines of the Dallas Police Department are mostly European imports these days, and many of them don't understand English.

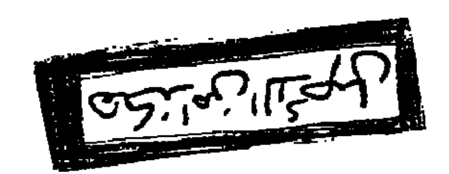
Brian Varker, the trainer for the department's canine unit, said European dogs tend to be better than American dogs for police work.

European dogs are well-trained, generally better-tempered, and their breeding is more strictly controlled, he said, while increasingly U.S.-bred German shepherds are victims of inbreeding – leaving many of them with weak hips.

When the dogs get to the United States, however, they don't recognize English commands. So police officers are learning how to command their assigned dogs in German, Dutch and Czech.

"It's easier for us to learn the dog's language than to retrain the dog in English," Varker said.

"It gets complicated. We'll have a situation that requires several dogs, and we're out there speaking four languages," he added. (AFP)



Millenium Change Threatens Business Chaos

LONDON — Computer systems operators, from mega-corporations and banks to school classrooms and laptop owners, have just over three years to prepare for millennium meltdown arising from a tragic oversight: Programmers forgot that their software cannot distinguish between one century and the next.

The British government has mustered a latest task force, not to beat off marauding invaders but to instigate contingency plans to cope with the century date change.

London seems to be alone among European capitals in predicting "business failure with serious social consequences" when the world welcomes the next millennium.

"The year 2000 will bring chaos for businesses which depend on computer systems, unless management takes early action," Science and Technology Minister Ian Taylor said.

His gloomy prediction followed a realization that most computer systems have been written to recognize two digits for the year component of any given date.

As 2000 draws near, computers will have to interpret "00" and many terminals are expected to assume that the year in question is 1900. Boffins fear that the uncertainty will make it impossible for companies to process orders, despatch invoices and calculate payments.

Chairman of the taskforce, Rob Wirszycz, said that a batch of corned beef whose expiry date fell after the turn of the millennium has been one of the first victims of what has become known as the Millennium Bug.

At the start of this year, software at the Marks and Spencer retail chain was unable to cope with the problem and labels and the entire computer system had to be overhauled.

Wirszycz said that the aim of the task force was to ensure that company executives would be aware of the implications of the millennium date change on their business by March 1997.

Companies will have to modify systems so that they can cope with the change or they will be forced to purchase millennium-conscious software.

But for some companies, the problems that the date change has posed for their computer systems appear insurmountable. Such is the case for automatic bank vaults, programmed to open only on business days, which risk springing open on the first weekend of the year 2000 on the understanding that it is in fact Monday January 2, 1900.

Computer systems that have been designed to protect bank vaults are so security-minded that they cannot be modified and the safes will simply have to be replaced if they are to cope with the date change.

Estimates of the cost of making computer systems around the world millennium-friendly vary wildly from $200 billion to $600 billion.

Alarmists have predicted that the cost of adapting existing computer programs will rise as the millennium approaches as programmers struggle to meet burgeoning demand from businesses.

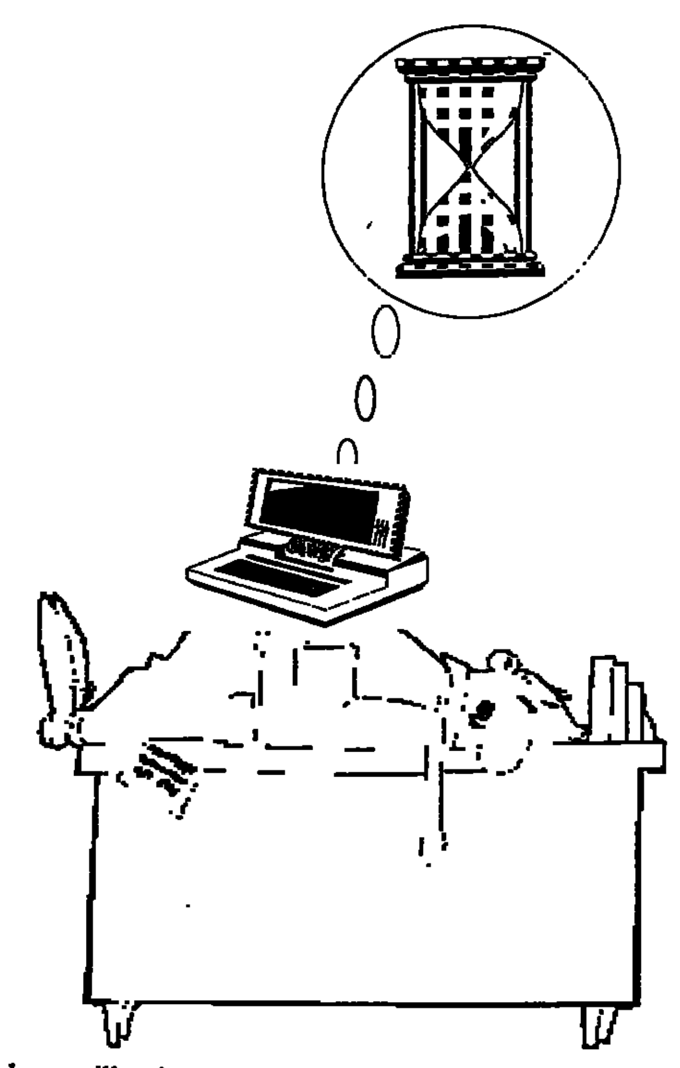
But others said that the problem was little more than hypothetical because many companies would in any case have adopted updated software that has been modified to get around dating troubles by the time of the changeover.

Skeptics maintained that the affair would be limited to small printing errors as bills are dated "00" instead of "2000"; a minor slip that most businesses will not even bother to correct.

Nonetheless, the question has already been taken seriously by numerous companies, including the world's most profitable airline, British Airways, which has set up its own research team aimed at ironing out timetable and booking implications, Wirszycz said.

He said that Britain recently warned its European trading partners of the implications of the date change. "It's amazing that the European Union has dedicated so much time to setting up the single European currency and has done nothing about this problem," he commented.

(AFP)



Netscape Takes on Microsoft With New Navigator Software

WASHINGTON — Netscape Communications, the leader in Internet software, launched its new Navigator version recently in an effort to go head to head with challenger Microsoft.

Netscape Navigator 3.0, whose release comes barely a week after Microsoft put out its latest version of Internet Explorer, touts two features that should preserve the company's comfortable lead over its top competitor, said Netscape marketing director for Europe, Eric Broussard.

First, it is faster than Explorer and it functions on a large variety of platforms, unlike the Microsoft product which can only work with Windows 95 and Windows NT software.

The new Navigator also offers complete compatibility with its forerunners which some 40 million people use worldwide — accounting for over 80 percent of the Internet users, according to a July study by the research firm IDC.

Netscape "has made enormous progress in the speed," with which it brings the Web pages it consults to the user's screen, Broussard said.

With current navigation software, users are frequently frustrated by these delays and Website creators are compelled to limit what they can do with multimedia on the Internet.

The more information a Website runs, such as greater graphics, sound or images, the longer it takes to access.

Taking the offensive against Microsoft, which produced Explorer as a tool to promote its advanced Windows 95 and NT systems, Netscape continues to focus on multiplatform approach.

Navigator 3.0 is available for 16 different systems, among them Macintosh and PowerMac from Apple, various Unix versions for networks, as well as Windows 95 and NT 4.0, in addition to the older version of Windows 3.1.

Windows 3.1 is the essential foundation for Internet users and it is "absolutely critical" for Netscape to continue to write for that program, Broussard said.

According to a recent study by Dataquest, Windows 3.1 will continue to sell some 20 million units in 1996, more than double what analysts had predicted and despite the unprecedented media blitz that accompanied Windows 95 last August.

Microsoft has for the first time included content in Navigator software by offering free access to some popular sites until December with Explorer 3.0.

Netscape has played the same game by including electronic mail services in Navigator 3.0.

Thanks to partnership agreements with some 15 companies — among them the *New York Times* and the specialized high-tech marketing firm Gartner Group — you can get free subscription to specific "a la carte" computer information.

It also offers advanced technology as the electronic mailbox included in navigator receives not only simple text but entire Web pages — with multimedia illustrations and pathways from one page to the other.

Available as of 5:30 a.m. (1230 GMT) Monday in California on the Netscape Web site (http://home.netscape.com/), Navigator access is free for the next 90 days. After the trial period, it will cost $49 download.

(AFP)

Bush Hunters Patrol Where Police Fear to Tread

ABIDJAN — Frustrated by the inability of the police to prevent a growing spate of violent crime in their area, residents of Abobo, a populous working-class district of Abidjan, have called on a brotherhood of bush hunters known as Dozos to secure their streets.

Around midnight, before each patrol, the Dozos prepare themselves for their night's work. All wear traditional costumes, some embellished with cowrie shells, mirror fragments and gazelle horns. They are armed with ancient and unreliable muskets that spew out great clouds of smoke when fired.

Crouched in the middle of a crossroads, one of the hunters mutters incantations as he leans over his fetish, a mysterious headless bird. The others reply by blowing whistles that imitate animal noises.

As a gunshot echoes through the city's empty streets the group of 20 breaks up into units of four before beginning the patrols.

The sharp-eyed posses make their way imposingly down dark, tumbledown streets, moving without fear or hesitation.

When a figure appears in the gloom, the Dozos of one unit point their torches and interrogate a startled man.

"Are you a night watchman? No? Then go home!"

Other residents are frisked, their hands in the air in a gesture of submission. A man in search of a late night snack is manhandled back to his house. Had he been a bandit, the hunters would have tied him up and escorted him to the police station.

It is four months since the traders of Abobo asked the head of Abidjan's Association of Hunters to engage the Dozos, who already "protect" several upcountry villages against thieves and latter-day highwaymen.

Sometimes they go over the top: local newspapers regularly report tales of the hunters' brutality.

Their presence in Abidjan is nevertheless appreciated.

"It was becoming impossible here. The bandits enjoyed a reign of terror. They're not afraid of the police, but they know they can't do anything with the Dozos around," said one of Abobo's 600,000 residents.

These hunters, also found in Mali, Burkina Faso and northern Ivory Coast, undergo a long and secret initiation ceremony they claim makes them invulnerable.

"The longest part is learning to become invincible," said one initiate.

"What we have that the police don't is magic," added another.

Abidjan residents offer more down to earth reasons for the Dozos' greater crime-fighting success.

"The police spend their time fleecing the woro-woros (communal taxis). When we ask them for help, they say they have no cars or no petrol," said one citizen, quoted in the state-owned paper *Fraternite Matin*.

Thanks to the Dozos, "calm has returned to the area," the paper said.

But the hunters do not work for love. Private citizens pay them 300 CFA francs (60 U.S. cents) a month, traders and artists 500 francs ($1) and owners of apartment blocks 1,000 francs ($2).

The Dozos aim to "chase the bandits from Abobo by 1997." Then they will go back to real hunting.

(AFP)

Crouched in the middle of a crossroads, one of the hunters mutters incantations as he leans over his fetish, a mysterious headless bird. The others reply by blowing whistles that imitate animal noises.

Singapore Names Panel to Tackle Internet Issues

SINGAPORE — Singapore, among the pioneers in Asia trying to censor the Internet, named a 19-member panel recently to tackle regulatory issues concerning the information highway.

The Information Ministry said the new committee would advise the Singapore Broadcasting Authority (SBA) on regulating the Internet — the latest step in the island's efforts to regulate the Internet and protect its citizens from pornography and abuses on the World Wide Web.

The Information Ministry said the National Internet Advisory Committee would be headed by Bernard Tan, dean of the Faculty of Science at the National University of Singapore.

Other members were drawn from a wide cross-section of the society, from school principals to industry executives.

Singapore was among the first countries in Asia to put in place rules to check abuses on the Internet, which is both a vast repository of information and a freewheeling platform for pornography and hate literature.

The SBA unveiled a regulatory bulwark last month to block access to smut and check political and religious content on the section of the information highway passing through the city-state.

From September 15, subscribers to the island's three Internet access service providers would have to enter cyberspace only through special computers called proxy servers designed to shut them off from "undesirable sites."

Some 100,000 Singaporeans have logged on to the Internet, their number increasing more than six-fold within a year, and the authorities expect three-digit growth to continue for the next year or two.

(AFP)

Microsoft's Internet Explorer Bugged

WASHINGTON — Microsoft's Internet browser Internet Explorer version 3.0 is troubled by a fault which hampers consultation of some sites on the World Wide Web, the software firm said recently.

"We are well aware of this problem and we are working to post a fix as soon as available" on Microsoft's Web site, said company spokesman Erin Brewer.

The defect concerns "a small number of sites" which require users to enter name and password each time they move from page to page within the same site, Brewer said.

The fault affects an element of the software supposed to heighten security which was added to Explorer just before its launch last week.

(AFP)

Best Practices

In Hong Kong, which has a population of 6 million — most living in urban or suburban areas — the Public Housing Authority responded to high land prices and overcrowding by building an average of 45,000 apartments a year, which are placed on the market at 45 percent of market value.

Leicester was chosen as the United Kingdom's first "environmental city" because of a pollution monitoring program, which improves the environment by building and encouraging the use of bicycle routes, introducing curbside recycling projects and implementing promotional campaigns to inform citizens.

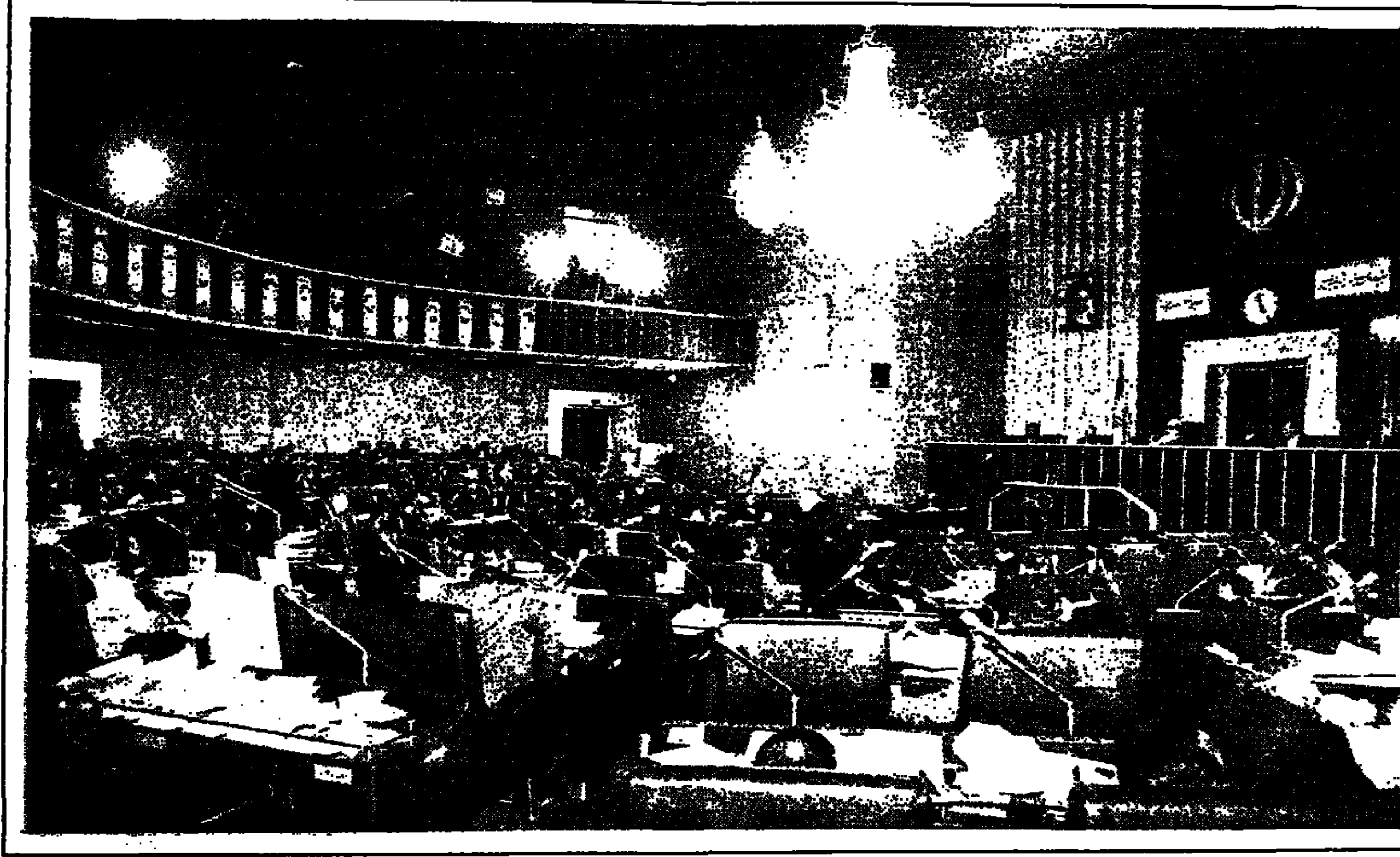
Tehran, Iran, by its own admission one of the most polluted cities of the world, has undertaken several steps to reduce carbon monoxide emission. Some 1,500 buses are being converted from diesel fuel to compressed natural gas. The municipality also enforces mandatory emissions inspections in restricted traffic zones. As a result, the green space per person in Tehran increased from 2.5 square meters to 10 square meters in 1993.

(UN Chronicle)

Iran's 1995-96 Budget

The financial policy of the Islamic Republic is that f con-lling inflation, reducing uidity, freezing prices and in-asing production, specially the duction of agricultural goods. Some of the country's economic perts believe that the rise of li-dity in the country is the main se of inflation; they believe that curbing inflation, liquidity must reduced. Some of the steps taken the government in order to re-ce liquidity are: Selling public mpanies involved in production the private sector through the ock exchange; inviting private ctor to invest in infrastructural d other construction projects ainst guaranteed interests; rais-g bank interests on both long and ort term deposits and adopting a htening economic policy for the ming few years.

Transfer of public production en-ies to the private sector, is roughout to bring about rapid ex-nsion in production. Then, infla-on will be curbed and the onomy will improve consider-ly.



For these reasons and consider-g the other objective of the Sec-d Development Plan, the Islamic vernment has prepared Iran's dget for the year March 21, 1995 -March 20, 1996, on the basis of e following principles:

an must become increasingly less dependent on oil for reign exchange revenues.

Transfer of public production entities to the private sector, is thought to bring about rapid expansion in production.

1- Decentralization of authority d government, i.e. the provinces ould be given a free hand in nning the affairs of their prov-ces. They should be encouraged find the right course of action for chieving greater development; d they should prepare and imple-ent their annual budget. This rinciple rightly assumes that the ople offish province are better le to identify their needs and arch for the right solutions to eir problems.

2- The government should su-ervise and guide the execution of onstruction projects and exploita-on of the country's resources and otential: Supervise rather than ex-tive or intervene. The work must executed as far as possible by the ivate sector which must be the rincipal figure in the running of e countries economy and fi-ances.

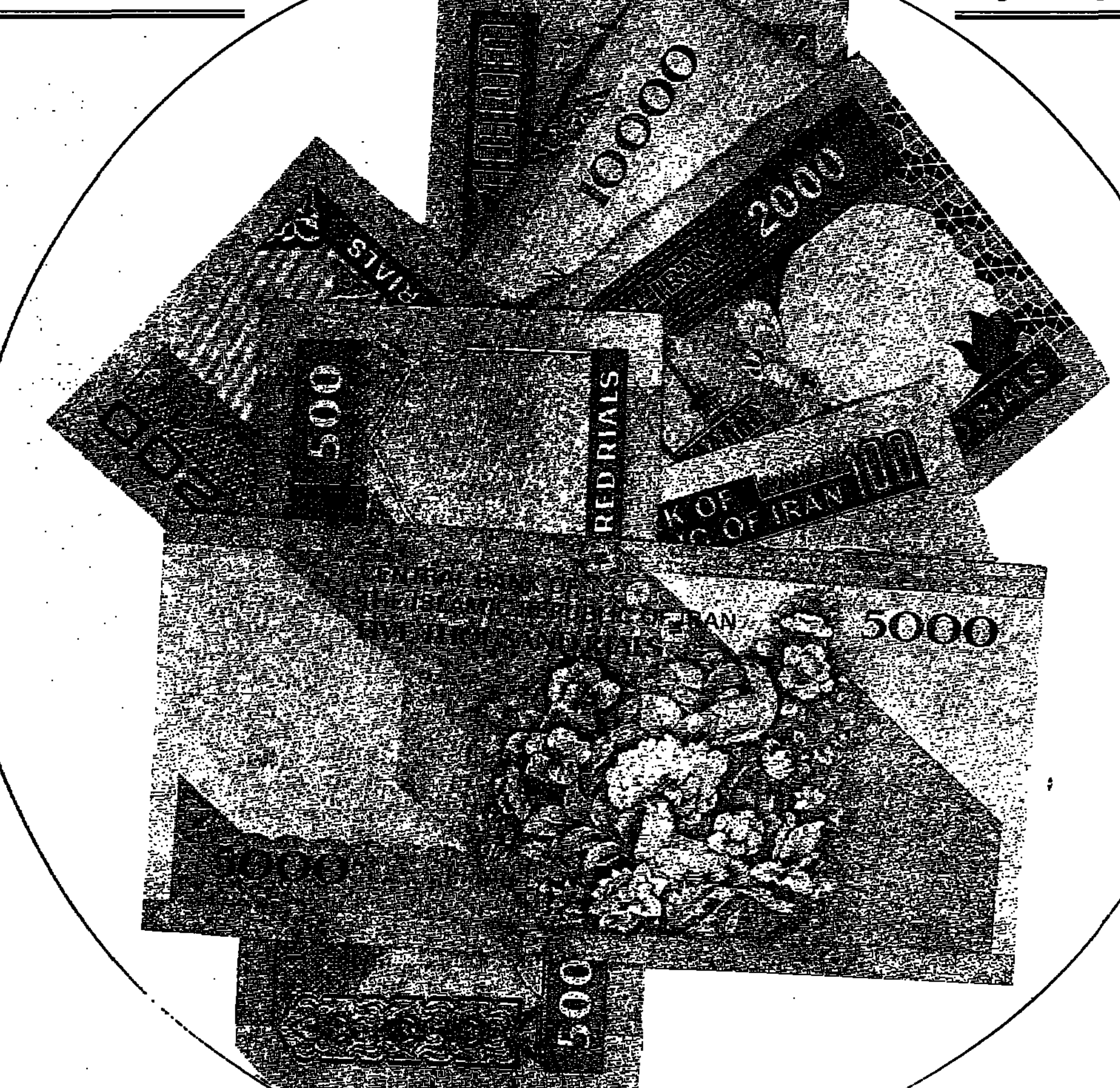
Social justice and the role of government in the welfare of the people are issues that have been greatly stressed in the Iranian constitution.

As more and more of the nation's ctivities are handed over to the rivate sector, government would e able to and should shrink the size f its presently colossal apparatus nd it has started by amalgamating e two ministries of light and eavy industries into a single Ministry of Industries. If the private sector is to be encouraged, it must first of all have long-term security and peace of mind.

3- Social justice and the role of government in the welfare of the people are issues that have been greatly stressed in the Iranian constitution. The state must aid the deprived regions by providing special subsidies for them.

4- Domestic industries must be protected with particular attention paid to agriculture, irrigation and water preservation: shortage of rainfall in most parts of Iran makes it necessary that ground water wastage be avoided and better use of underground ater be made

5- Non-oil exports must be expanded so that Iran becomes increasingly less dependent on oil for foreign exchange revenues. This is a principle that Iran has adhered to for many years and has attempted to implement. Fortunately Iran has been successful in this respect and there has been a considerable rise in non-oil export revenues (from 500 million U.S.D to 3.5 billion in a few years).



An important step in this direction should be the expansion of oil and gas products. Foreign exchange revenues from oil and gas products and from petrochemicals, are far greater than what the oil producing countries gain from exporting crude oil.

Iran is also rich in the metal and non-metal mine products such as iron ore, copper, decorative stone and gypsum of the non-metal materials. But the present methods of extraction are highly wasteful and leave much to be desired.

6- The Iranian nation is young: That is 55% of the population is under 20 years of age. The importance given to the young people who are the future of any nation is therefore a more serious issue in Iran. The younger generation needs schools, colleges and universities. They need sports and artistic facilities and other healthy amusements. Later they need jobs and homes and the right conditions to form families. They must have social and psychological security. For such a alarge population of young people, Iran must spend a great deal of money to provide all these as well as the right atmosphere for their social and moral development.

Primary and secondary school accommodations, universities and polytechnics, sports grounds, and atmosphere in which young people can reveal and develop their artistic and creative talents, board and lodging for some of the students...the list is staggeringly long and the budget has to see them, which is not a simple matter.

7- A nation's history and cultural heritage are as necessary as schools and hospitals, though this may not be as apparent or seem to be as vital. If hospitals are necessary to save individuals' lives, cultural heritage is essential for the life of the nation as a whole.

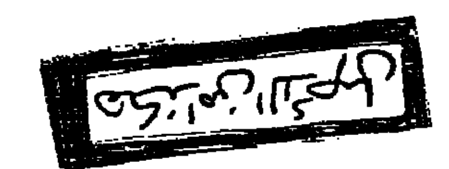
Iranians must preserve an restore their past architecture, manuscripts, miniatures, handicrafts, etc; they must keep their historical records up-to-date; they must appreciate the value of their press and other mass media each of which ust have museums and research centers. In short, they must do what is necessary to safeguard their identity and know well the traditions and cult of their ancestors.

Foreign exchange revenues from oil and gas products and from petrochemicals, are far greater than what the oil producing countries gain from exporting crude oil.

8- The current administrative and bureaucratic system i.e. the present way of government administration, has many shortcomings and must be improved. It must be cut in size and become more efficient.

So much for the principles behind the new budget.

(Iran Export)





Once again Iran Carpet Gallery pavilion, under Naser Aryanazhad's management, is the focus of admirers' attention in the 5th International Carpet Exhibition.

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Iran Carpet Gallery's Great Prize

Three 6-meter, 3-meter and 1.5-meter all-silk pieces of rug will be presented to dear purchasers through casting lots Aug. 28, final day of the exhibition.

The lot casting will be carried out totally by the purchasers.

AUGUST 22, 19

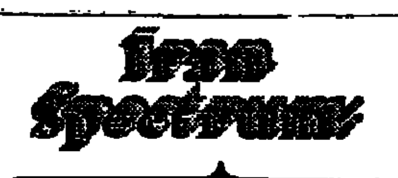
International Spectrum





Tehran Times Weekend Issue

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 1996; SHAHRIVARI, 1375; RABIUL-SANI 6, 1417





A Glance at National Events

The World This Week

WORLD NEWS

Wednesday August 14

Syria Calls for Halt in Normalization With Israel

Syria on Wednesday called for the Arab countries to halt normalization with Israel and keep up their economic boycott until the Zionist state accepts a "land-for-peace" settlement.

Christopher Begins Talks on Bosnia



U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic on Wednesday opened talks in Geneva involving the three presidents of former Yugoslavia to discuss hurdles standing in the way of next month election in Bosnia.

Fighting Stops in Grozny



Fighting between Chechen separatists and Russian troops stopped in central Grozny shortly after noon Wednesday.

Thursday August 15

d'Amato Bill Unacceptable to Germany



German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said in an interview with the Hamburg-based daily Bild Zeitung that the d'Amato Bill is not acceptable to Germany at all.

Turkey Aims to Broaden Relations With Iran

Turkish President Sulaiman Demirel told reporters that his government aimed to broaden relations with Iran without prejudice to any third nation.

Friday August 16

Turkey to Boost Ties With Islamic Neighbors

Turkey has started implementing a new foreign policy which calls for boosting ties with Islamic countries, Foreign Minister Tansu Cillar said.

Lebed Demands Resignation of Kulikov

Russian National Security chief Alexandre Lebed called for the dismissal of Russian Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov, regarded as hardliner on the Chechnya conflict.

U.S. Lowers Military Profile in Kuwait

U.S. military personnel stationed in Kuwait increasingly will be required to leave their families behind in an effort to lower U.S. visibility in the Persian Gulf sheikhdom.

Saturday August 17

Chechens, Russians, Agree Cease-Fire in Chechnya



Chechen and Russian military commanders announced they had formally agreed a cease-fire, expected to bring to an end fierce fighting in the breakaway republic.

Erbakan Lambasts U.S. MPs Threats

Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan lambasted four U.S. congressmen for calling on President Bill Clinton to impose sanctions on Turkey over death of two Greek Cypriots in the Cyprus buffer zone.

Russian Hostage Pilots Escape Afghanistan

Seven Russian pilots held hostage for more than a year in Afghanistan by Taliban militia have escaped and have made their way to the United Arab Emirates.

Sunday August 18

Lebanese Voters Go to Polls

Voting began Sunday in Lebanon's first parliamentary elections in four years with the opening round of balloting taking place in the predominantly Christian region of Mount Lebanon.

70 Detained in Jordan Riots

The Jordanian authorities have arrested more than 70 in connection with riots over bread prices in the south of the country and blamed left wing parties for the violence.

Beijing Slams Washington of Arrogance

China launched a fresh attack against U.S. foreign policy, accusing the superpower of launching itself as a world dictator in the guise of fighting terrorism.

Monday August 19

Russians Kill 40 Chechens Despite Truce

Russian forces claimed to have killed around 40 Chechen fighters in an attack on a bus and lorry south despite a fragile cease-fire agreement brokered over weekend.

IFOR Destroys Serb Arms Dump

Italian troops of the NATO-led peace Implementation Force (IFOR) blew up a first batch of Bosnian Serb munition seized from an unauthorized arms dump northeast of Sarajevo.

Russian Cargo Plane Crashes Near Belgrade

Eleven crew members were killed when a Russian cargo plane crashed into a cornfield near Belgrade's Surcin Airport after its navigation failed.

Tuesday August 20

6 Taliban Militiamen Held Over Escape of Hostages

Six Taliban militiamen have been taken into custody in an investigation by the Afghan faction into last week's escape of seven Russian pilots and crew, Afghan sources said.

China Regulations on Direct Shipping With Taiwan

China announced a series of regulations to govern direct shipping links with Taiwan, even though such traffic is not allowed at present. "The regulations, which take effect Tuesday, are meant to promote cargo and passenger transport between the two sides of the (Taiwan) straits and accelerate the development of direct mail service, trade, and air and shipping links across the straits," the official news agency xinhua said.

Israel Ready for Attack Against Syria

The Israeli government is prepared to launch an attack on Syria, a Syrian government newspaper claimed. "An Israeli attack on Syria cannot be ruled out," said the daily ATh-Thawra, adding that the Israeli government is "ready for such an attack with only the date yet to be fixed."

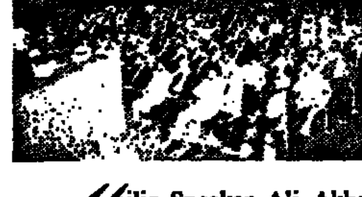
Thai Opposition Submits No-Confidence Motion

Thailand's opposition filed its second no-confidence motion against the country's embattled Prime Minister Banharn Silpa-Archa, an opposition statement said.

LOCAL NEWS

Wednesday August 14

No Negotiations With U.S.



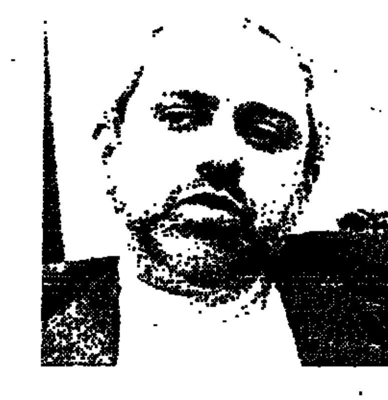
Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri in a meeting with heads of Iran's missions abroad stressed talks with U.S. will not solve any problem because of its expansionist nature.

Promotion of Iran-S. Africa Cultural Ties Discussed

Expansion of Iran-South Africa bilateral ties was discussed in a meeting between the Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mostafa Mirsalim and South African Ambassador to Tehran Mossa Mohammed Moolla.

Thursday August 15

U.S. Should Respond at Int'l Court



Deputy Foreign Minister For Legal and International Affairs, Mohammad Javad Zarif said that Islamic Republic's legal action against the U.S. refers to Paragraph 1 of the Algiers Agreement and Washington should respond to it at the International Court.

Iran Concerned Over Landmine

The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed deep concern over the dilemma of landmines at the UN Security Council on Landmine Clearance.

Friday August 16

Kashani Calls For Unity of Muslims

Substitute leader of Friday congregational prayer in Tehran Ayatollah Mohammad Emami Kashani called on Muslims worldwide to unite in a fight against Zionist plots.

Saturday August 17

Syrian Premier Arrives in Tehran



Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud al-Zoubi heading a high-level delegation arrived in Tehran and was greeted by Iranian Vice-President Hassan Habibi at Mehrabad International Airport.

Environmental Protection, a National Duty



As a permanent member of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the Environment Protection Organization has implemented key projects for the conversation of the natural and human environment of the country," head of the organization, Hadi Manafi said.

Sunday August 18

Syria Sides With Iran in Face of Foreign Threats



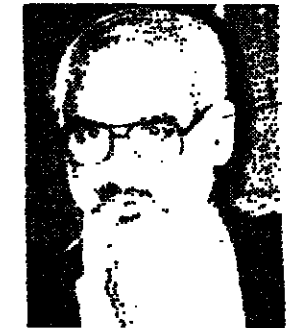
Visiting Syrian Prime Minister in a meeting with President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani stressed as close friend to Islamic Republic of Iran, Syria will resist the bullying of any power threatening Iran.

Fate of Iranian MIAs Still Unknown

The Fate of nearly 35,000 Iranian soldiers considered to be missing in action (MIAs) still hangs in the balance despite Iran's all-out and relentless efforts to clarify their situation, Brigadier General Mirfisal Baqerzadeh said.

Monday August 19

Aqazadeh Arrives in Pakistan



Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh arrived in Islamabad for talks aimed at concluding an agreement to establish a one-billion-dollar oil refinery in Pakistan.

Syrian PM Confers With Vice President, Majlis Speaker



Visiting Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud al-Zoubi, conferred with Iranian First Vice President Hassan Habibi and Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri and discussed expansion of bilateral and regional issuses with them.

Tuesday August 20

Bangladeshi Delegation Arrives Here

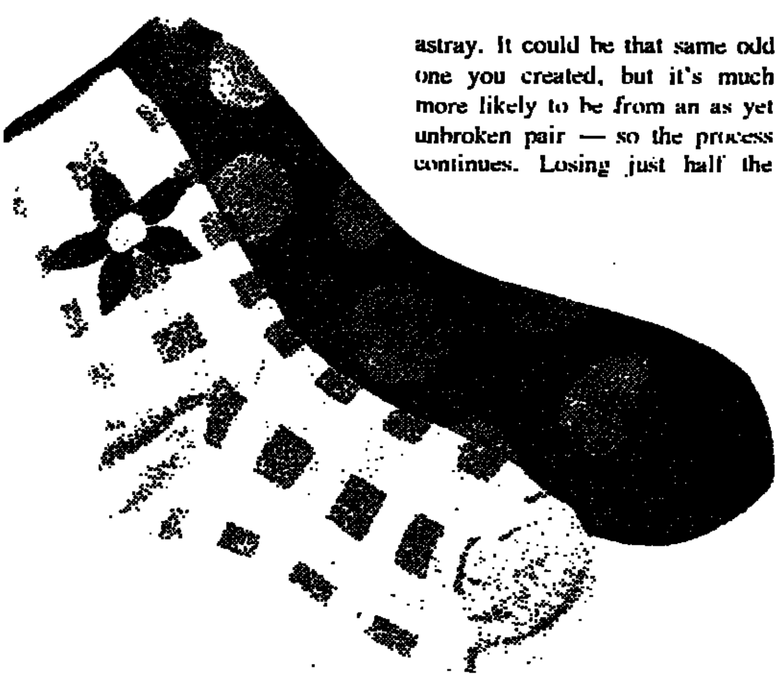
A high-level Bangladeshi politico-economic delegation arrived in Tehran for talks with Iranian officials on a wide range of topics, including the promotion of bilateral cooperation, particularly in the areas of trade and investment, as well as the use of Iranian transit facilities to assist Dhaka in its exchages with regional countries.

President Inaugurates Radio-TV Networks

A provincial network of the Iranian Radio and Television was inaugurated by President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in Isfahan.



Why Do There Always Seem to Be Odd Socks In My Drawers?



If odd socks can be created, they will be. Imagine a drawer containing nothing but complete pairs of socks. Then one goes missing — it doesn't matter how or where. Instantly you've created an odd sock in the drawer. Then another goes astray. It could be that same odd one you created, but it's much more likely to be from an as yet unbroken pair — so the process continues. Losing just half the socks in the drawer cuts the number of complete pairs by 75 percent. And the solution? Try ditching your existing socks and stocking up on just *two* favorite designs.

(Courtesy the Focus)

Entertaining in Style



French Apricot Tart

You will need...
6oz. rich shortcrust pastry
2 eggs
1 1/2 oz. castor sugar
3/4 oz. flour
1/4 pint plus 5 tablespoons milk
few drops vanilla essence
For the topping:
15 oz. can and 8 oz. can apricot halves
For the glaze:
11/2 level teaspoons arrowroot
1/4 pint fruit juice

Preparation time
35 minutes

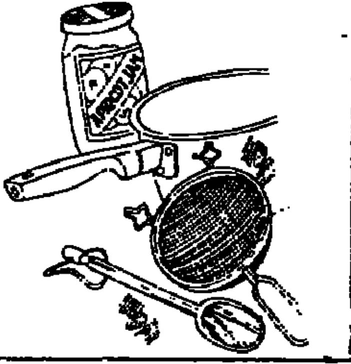
Cooking time
35 minutes

Oven setting
400 °F; gas mark 6

Line an 8-inch shallow fluted flan tin with pastry. Fill with a piece of crumpled foil, or greaseproof paper, and baking beans and bake in a hot oven for 25 minutes. Remove paper, or foil, and baking beans and bake for a further 5 minutes dry base of flan case. Leave to cool.

Mix eggs and sugar together for confectioners custard. Add flour and sufficient milk to make a smooth paste. Boil rest of milk. Add to eggs, stirring. Return to pan. Simmer 2 to 3 minutes until thick. Remove from heat. Stir frequently while cooling so a skin does not form. Stir in vanilla essence. Spread custard in base of flan case.

Drain fruit. Arrange on top of custard. Put arrowroot in a pan. Blend in fruit juice. Bring to boil and simmer until thick. Spoon glaze over fruit. Leave to set.
Serves 6



QUICK TIP
For a quicker glaze use 4 tablespoons apricot jam warmed with a tablespoon water. Sieve well and spoon or brush over the tart whilst still warm

Are You a Clutter Bug?

If you're a slave to housework, there are ways to diminish if not banish this necessary evil, say experts

Housework. It's the bane of every home manager. The more you scrub the floors, the dirtier the cupboards seem to become. Tackle the cupboards, and a dirty fridge beckons. Until one morning, you wake up from nightmares of murderous kitchen appliances and find you're a slave to housework.

Another popular approach — a frenetic outburst of monthly tidying which requires tolerating dust and piles of newspapers for the rest of the time, not to mention friends who visit only at the tidy end of the month. Says Pam McClellan, author of *Don't Be a Slave to Housework*, was anxious to run her home as well as Harriet Nelson of *Ozzie and Harriet* "TV supermoms were my idols as a child," says McClellan. But she found being the perfect homemaker a lot harder than it looked on TV. "I didn't want to end up with an epitaph that read: Here lies one heck of a housekeeper. Never did much else with her life, but she sure could mop a floor."

Chore Cutters: McClellan is now part of a new movement of home managers who advocate simplifying or even eliminating chores. Like her, Paula Jhung is a disciple of the camouflage technique. A rug under her dinner table features colors "from the four major food groups" — red, green, tan and white.

"If it doesn't get vacuumed as often as it should, you can't tell the lint and the crumbs from the design," grins the author of *How to Avoid Housework*. In the living room, Jhung has replaced her old carpet with camel-colored carpeting that disguises dog hair from the family's golden retriever.

McClellan agrees. She suggests that before buying furniture, you should consider how often you'll have to clean, wash, polish, dust or wax it.

Catch-All Ways: If your kitchen or living room is constantly under siege from your children's abandoned school books, toys or half-completed games, McClellan suggests investing in a catch-all basket. "Any odd item — your neighbor's puppy's chewed toy, an extra combination lock, your grandmother's mitten — can be tossed in here until you are ready to deal with or return it. That way when your kids finally remember their homework or can't find their socks, they know exactly where to look.

Unfortunately this option is not available to most of us, but Patti Barrett, who wrote *Too Busy to Clean*, has another creative suggestion care of her aunt, an exponent of "the white tornado approach". According to Barrett, this involves "gathering up everything lying where it doesn't belong, stuffing it in a bag, and putting the bag away."

Finally, if all else fails in your battle with housework, says McClellan, hire a housecleaner.

YOUR CLUTTER QUOTIENT

Try Pam McClellan's quiz by answering, yes or no.

1. Do you hang on to things for sentimental reasons?

2. Do you save brown paper bags, plastic bags or empty peanut butter jars because they might come in handy one day?

3. Does your wardrobe still hold clothes that are too small, too big, out of date, or that you simply never wear?

4. Do you save mail order catalogs just in case?

5. Do you hold on to broken gadgets and appliances, hoping that you'll have them fixed some day?

6. Do you keep magazines and newspapers to read later?

7. Do you hold on to unusable bits and pieces like the keys from your first flat?



8. Do you have several unfinished projects on the boil?

9. Does you kitchen look like a gadgets shop display?

10. Do you tend to stock up on things like soap and jam?

SCORING — Count every yes answer as one point:

0-2 Excellent. With your ability to cut out clutter, you should soon be able to eliminate it.

3-4 Better than average, but there's room for improvement.

5-7 Room for concern. Eliminate that clutter sometime.

8-10 Fire hazard. Get out of the house quick!

(Courtesy the Asia Feature)

Answer to Last Week's WORD SEARCH

Do You Know How Others See You?

Most of us imagine we know ourselves but sometimes during periods of self-evaluation, we pause to wonder how others see us. And that matters because we want to project the right image to the world. This test will help you see yourself through the eyes of others.

1. When you laugh, is it usually
(a) rather robust and hearty?
(b) more of a smile and a chuckle than a laugh?
(c) a subdued, almost private laugh?
(d) a bit brittle or cynical?
(e) deep-throated, slightly suggestive?

2. In bed at night, as you go off to sleep, do you lie
(a) stretched out on you back?
(b) stretched out on your stomach?
(c) with your head cradled on one of your arms?
(d) curled up?
(e) with your head almost completely covered by bedclothes?

3. When you sit down to relax for any length of time, for instance to read or watch television, which posture do you usually adopt?
(a) fairly upright with legs and feet together.
(b) one leg bent and tucked under you.
(c) knees together but feet several inches apart.
(d) legs crossed or twined one around the other.
(e) legs straight out with feet crossed at the ankles.

4. When sitting and talking to friends, do you
(a) have a habit of touching or prodding the person with whom you are talking?
(b) sit fairly still with your hands clasped?
(c) tug at your ear, pull your hair, stroke your chin or in some other way often touch your face with your hand?
(d) play with a cigarette, a ring, keys or anything handy?
(e) adjust your clothing, such as, pull down your skirt, straighten your tie.

5. When walking do you usually
(a) take long striding steps with your head high?
(b) take fairly short, stabbing steps?
(c) have loose hip movements rocking from side to side?
(d) look at the ground most of the time?
(e) walk with a swing?

Scoring:
Look at your selection of answers for the five questions. In all probability you have checked the same key-letter, a,b,c,d or e, several times. If the same letter has been checked five times your personality type is quite definite. If the same letter comes up three times, it is still evidence of a strong characteristic. If your selections are scattered, read the analysis.

Analysis:
The A type: *You are confident, forthright and ambitious. You dislike playing second fiddle and want to be the one who runs things. It could be that you are overly dominant, possessive, outspoken and even quick-tempered.*

The B type: *The selection of four or more Bs indicates a sane and sensible person — down to earth, methodical and practical.*

The C type: *You are very likely the sensitive, sympathetic, artistic type. You like people and have a need for them to like you. You can be temperamental, impatient and moody.*

The D type: *Shyness and insecurity are your major characteristics. Although you want people to like you, you will not relax enough to let them get to you. You worry unnecessarily and fret about small things.*

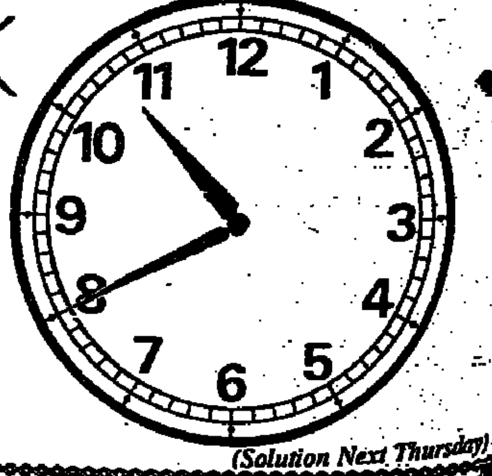
The E type: *You are not too far apart from the A type except that you are probably more vain, restless and self-centered. While the type A is a go-getter, you are more relaxed and secure in your ambitions.*

The A-B-C-D-E type: *This scattered selection is quite normal. You could be a mix of caution and artistic sensitivity and shy under new situations. People tend to like you because they can never be sure what your reactions will be.*

(Courtesy the Times of India)

CLOCK-WORK

If this clock has been steadily gaining ten minutes per hour since it was last set to the correct time, and given that in 45 minutes' time it will be ten o'clock, when did the clock last show the correct time?



(Solution Next Thursday)



True Story

My Search for the Friend I Left Behind

In an Afghan prison, he had helped me through the worst time of my life. I had to find him—and thank him.

By Tony O'Brien

The last time I saw Nader Ali, he was behind bars, watching me walk to freedom. I never thought I would see him again, never thought I would go back to Afghanistan. But now I am on a plane taking me from my home in Santa Fe, N.M., returning me to the place I spent the most terrifying weeks of my life. Nader Ali is a man I need to thank.

The flight attendant slides a tray in front of me. I stare at the radishes in the salad, and I'm back in prison in Afghanistan. "Eat, Tony, eat," Nader Ali is saying. "Radishes are good for your digestion." I eat my radishes, worrying over what I will discover about him and about the newly liberated nation.

In the beginning, I went to Afghanistan because of the danger, news photographers chase wars. In 1986, I slipped across the Khyber Pass from Pakistan with the mojahedin—guerrillas fighting to drive the Soviets out of their country. I spent months in the mountains, sleeping under the stars and Soviet rocket fire. *I'm going to die, I thought. What am I doing in this place?*

Yet in 1989 I took another assignment to cover the expected fall of the capital city, Kabul, after the Soviets pulled out. In Pakistan I asked a guerrilla commander of a clandestine operation in Kabul to get me in. "It's all set," he told me. "You go at 6 a.m." With his troops I traveled through the hills by foot, mule and truck. On the last leg, we crawled in gullies and dodged search flares to evade the Soviet-backed regime's security ring around the city. From a safe house, I was passed to other contacts. One was a traitor.

I was sipping tea one evening when the door flew open and men I'd never seen before burst in. I raised my hand to say "*salaam alaikum*"—"peace be with you." But when I looked into their eyes, I knew I was finished.

They jerked me to my feet, slapped me, threw me against a wall and chained my hands behind my back. *I'm never going to see my mother again,* I thought. Pulling a blanket over my head, they dumped me into a car.

A stop. I heard screams and knew we were at a prison. *Torture,* I thought. *I won't be able to endure torture.* I was stripped, searched and led through stinking corridors. A metal door closed behind me. There were two people in the eight-by-ten foot concrete cell. A large man with bulging eyes, shaven head and dangling arms lumbered toward me, giggling, and squeezed my arm. *Oh my God, I said to myself. I'm locked up with a psychotic sex maniac.* That was Nader Ali.

When I woke up the next morning, the first thing I thought of was G. Gordon Liddy, the Watergate burglar, doing exercises in prison. I began to do sit-ups, push-ups, knee bends. My cellmates sat against the wall, watching incredulously. I kept going until guards came to take me to a room where for weeks I would spend most of my time with a KGB-trained interrogator.

"How did you get into this country?" he demanded.

"How strong are the mojahedin?"

"Who are you working for?"

When I returned to my cell, Nader Ali was there, and I found out that he spoke a little English. He said he had been worried for me. What had happened the night before, he explained, was that he was trying to welcome me to their world by making a little joke. Now I was their guest, he said, and he took bread and shared it equally among the three of us.

Nader Ali, a Shi'ite Muslim, said he was a bookkeeper who, before his imprisonment, had been a spy for an anti-government group. "Tell the interrogators the truth and everything will be all right," he urged me. "God will take care of you." I wondered if he was a plant.

As I got to know him, though, I saw he was genuine. We talked about everything—politics, our families, even the best kabob cafes in Kabul. He did sit-ups with me, and we prayed together five times a day.

"You must eat something, Tony," he would insist, pushing at me the breakfast bread, the rice and radish at lunch, the greasy-water soup that was our dinner. "You have to stay healthy."

Every night he would say, "The *karkhana* is open." *Karkhana* means factory. Ours was contained in a matchbox: carved matches, a tiny piece of wire salvaged from a broom, a pop top from a soda can. With those tools and the food we had saved, we "manufactured." With great patience, Nader Ali would knead soft bread, mixing it with tea and sugar. We made prayer beads striped with dough darkened by cigarette ash. We strung the beads on thread unraveled from our bedding and baked them near the overhead light bulb.

One night the mojahedin fired rockets that landed all around the prison. Nader Ali crouched against the wall, tears in his eyes, terrified for his family. He cried out, asking Allah to watch over his children while their father was locked away. "Why are they doing this, Tony?" he asked desperately. "How can they kill their own people?"

That time I was the one to soothe him. But the next day I was again in despair, slumped on my bunk. *Why had I been so egocentric about my work that I had risked capture, ignoring its effects on those I loved?* Nader Ali sat at the foot of the bed. "Don't worry, Tony," he said. "Everything will be all right. God will take care of us."

Nader Ali and I took turns standing on top of the toilet, looking out the tiny slice of window to the mountains outside. We repeated our home addresses to each other day after day, so we could believe that someday we would see each other in freedom. I did not know that diplomats and colleagues back home were working to get me out.



Nader Ali and Tony O'Brien revisit the prison cell they shared.

One morning, six weeks after my ordeal had begun, the guards took me down the hall. "What would you say if I told you you would be freed today?" a stranger asked.

In my cell for the last time, feeling both elated and guilty, I said goodbye to Nader Ali. I was leaving, and he was looking at 20 years or possibly a death sentence. And yet he was genuinely happy. "You are going to be free, Tony," he said. "Tell your mother *salaam alaikum* from me."

The guard was waiting; I hugged Nader Ali one last time. "I'll never forget you," I said. At the bottom of the stairs, I turned back and saw him holding the bars of the cell, tears streaming down his cheeks.

Now, THREE YEARS LATER, I'm in a plane looking down at the hills of Afghanistan. I have thanked almost everyone—those who got me out of prison, those who called my mother every day. Yet I never thanked the person who gave me the strength to live. Afghanistan is free now, but I am not.

I look out of the taxi, searching Kabul. Factional fighting is still going on for control of the city. Men strut about with Russian Kalashnikov rifles slung over their shoulders as casually as women carry purses. I keep looking into their faces, searching for Nader Ali. With more than a million people dead in the past 14 years, I am hoping he isn't one of them.

I go to the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which acts as a support system for prisoners. I explain my mission to the sympathetic receptionist, Malahat. She says she will keep an eye out for Nader Ali.

Meanwhile, I roam the streets. *How, in a city of 1.5 million with few telephones and crowded neighborhoods that have few street signs, can I find one man?*

Four days later, at nine o'clock in the morning, I go back to the ICRC. "You're a lucky man," says Malahat. "He was here, your friend. When I said your name, he even knew your address."

I've found him! I think. They have told him to meet me at my hotel. I don't know how to fill the three hours I have to wait, so I go to a mosque. Inside, in the stillness under the large dome, my mind flashes back to those six weeks in prison. The memory of Nader Ali's care comes flooding over me. I thank God for reuniting us.

At twelve o'clock Nader Ali walks into the lobby, beaming. We rush into an embrace and laugh. Free for just three weeks, he had stopped at the ICRC to inquire about assistance. All the emotions I feel and cannot express flow freely from him.

"After you left, Tony, they searched our cell and took everything," he says. "I scratched your name and address on the wall so I would never forget you. When I heard you were looking for me, Tony, I was so happy I thought my heart would burst. I feel you are my own brother."

We go to his home, a mud compound with a vegetable garden in the courtyard. His wife is cooking, his son stares at me, and his daughter plays with her doll. I am an instant uncle. We eat eggs, rice and vegetables from the garden. Though I can talk to Nader Ali, whom I had helped with his English, it is harder for me to converse with his family. "How did we communicate so well?" I ask.

"When somebody's heart and mind are clear," he says, "there is always some way of understanding, heart to heart."

I give him T-shirts, a camera and the prayer beads I have carried for three years. He hands me two dinner napkins embroidered by his wife, two pairs of socks and the beads he made.

Later we visit our cell, and I ask if returning to the prison is difficult. He looks surprised and says, "No, Tony. I can walk. I can talk. I am free. I am very happy."

The night before my flight home, I sit on the hotel balcony and watch the tracer fire burn out the stars. I realize that the most important things of all—freedom and faith, love and family—were so clear in prison. But a few special people, like Nader Ali, carry that perspective with them in daily life.

Thank you, my friend, for everything you have taught me. I may never see you again, but I love you. I am a lucky man, indeed. (Reprinted from *Reader's Digest*, June 1993.)

Fascinating Facts

Pitohui, Bird With a Poisonous Streak



A hooded pitohui, a common New Guinea bird, scratched and pecked John Dumbacher's hand as the University of Chicago researcher freed it from a net. When he licked his wound, his mouth grew "numb and tingly." He wondered why and began a study that brought the first proof that a bird can be poisonous.

Dumbacher sent pitohui feathers, skin, and other tissues to the U.S. National Institutes of Health, where the poison was extracted, identified, and injected into mice. "The mice just keeled over," says Dumbacher. The same neurotoxin is known in only one other group of animals: poison dart frogs from Central and South America.

Research revealed that two other pitohui species also produce poison. Dumbacher wants to learn how they do so, how they keep from being affected by it, and whether they use bright colors to warn potential predators that it is dangerous to attack them.

Dumbacher had gone to New Guinea with Bruce Beehler to study birds of paradise on a National Geographic Society grant.

"Here you have one of New Guinea's better known birds, and we didn't know the most remarkable thing about it," muses Beehler. (Courtesy of *National Geographic*, April 1993.)

Travelogue

Macau: The Past is Present

Tehran Times Service

When King Louis XVI sent Comte de Jean Francoise La Perouse on a voyage of discovery, the great French navigator sailed for Terra Australis and then to Macau. In Macau he built an observatory on a wooded knoll across the harbour from China.

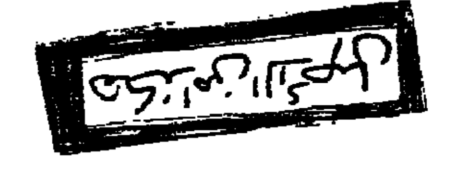
Today, one can still climb the site of La Perouse's Observatory, in the same garden where, in 1557, the Portuguese poet Camoes is said to have written some of his greatest work. Like La Perouse, one can still see villages across the water, but the once "Forbidden kingdom" is open today, and the visitor can pass through the Bar-Gate for trips into China.

Everywhere in Macau one can see and feel history. The cobblestoned streets and traditional Chinese gardens. Rococo churches and Taoist temples going back four centuries. Fortresses and fishing boats, secluded islands guarded by old cannon, the joy of a Mediterranean city set in the South China Sea.

Visit Macau. It takes just an hour by jet from Hong Kong to travel centuries back in time.



The La Perouse Observatory



TODAY IN HISTORY

1952 - Arab league security pact goes into effect.

1958 -- China begins bombardment of island of Quemoy.

1962 - U.S. Telstar satellite relays first live television program between United States and Europe.

1964 - Foot bridge collapses over River Gorge in Venezuela, and 29 people fall to their deaths in rapids below.

1975 - Communists complete takeover of Laos.

1986 - Leaders of nine southern African nations, meeting in Angola, express support for international economic sanctions against South Africa.

1991 - Communist Party is banned from the KGB throughout the Soviet Union.

1992 - More than 500 survivors return to Singapore from the cruise ship Royal Pacific, which sank after a collison with a fishing boat.

1993 - In Denmark, salvagers hoping for Nazi documents and treasure, hoist a German U-boat out of a muddy seabed where it sank in an allied attack 48 years ago.

CANDID CAMERA

Photo: Mojtaba Takin

TOMORROW IN HISTORY

1941 — Nazi troops reach outskirts of Soviet city of Leningrad in World War II.

1972 — Rhodesia is asked to withdraw from 20th Olympic Summer Games because of its racial policies.

1986 — Angolan guerilla leader says Soviet-aided government forces have started using chemical warfare in 10-year struggle for control of nation.

1989 — Colombia's foreign minister discourages any military intervention by United States in struggle against that country's drug barons.

1990 — Scores of angry smokers block street near Moscow's Red Square for hours in protest of summer-long cigarette, shortage.

1991 — Yugoslav federal official admits that truce ordered in Croatia on Aug. 7 has collapsed and 70 people have died in fighting since then.



Short Story

Just Lather, That's All

By Hernando Tellez

*Hernando Tellez (1908-1966) was born in Bogota, Colombia, where for much of his life he was involved in the literary and journalistic life of the city. At 17 he joined the staff of the weekly Munod al Dia. Two years later, German Arciniegas started a magazine, Universidad, with Tellez's help. The formation of this publication helped to draw the intellectuals of his generation into what they called Los Nuevos ("the New Ones"). The group succeeded the writers and journalists of an earlier generation of Colombian — more precisely, Bogotan — fiction, nonfiction, and poetry writers. Arciniegas and Alberto Lleras Camargo, who headed **El Tiempo**, which Tellez joined in 1929, were leading figures in the New Ones. Active in national politics, Tellez in 1937 was designated the consul in Marseille, France. He returned to Colombia shortly before World War II and took up the post of subdirector of another publication, **El Liberal**. He was a senator from 1944 to 1947, and in 1959 he was appointed ambassador to UNESCO in Paris. "The prose of Tellez," wrote Richard Latchman, editor of **Stories of the Hispanic American**, "is distinguished for the qualities of spiritual contention and noble power exactly synthesized an shaded." In addition to his editorial and diplomatic activities, Tellez published **Inquietud de mundo (The Restless of the World**; (1943); **Bagatelas** (1944); **Diario** (1964); **Luces en el bosque (lights in the Woods**; (1964); **Cenizas para el viento y otras historians (Ashes to the Wind and Other Stories**; 1950), form whish "Just Lather, That's All" (Espuma y nada mas") is taken; **Literatura (Literature**; 1951); **Literatura y sociedad** (1956); and **Confesion de parte (In the Name of Confession**; (1966).*

He said nothing when he entered. I was passing the best of my razors back and forth on a strop. When I recognized him I started to tremble. But he didn't notice. Hoping to conceal my emotion, I continued sharpening the razor. I tested it on the meat of my thumb, and then held it up to the light. At that moment he took off the bullet-studded belt that his gun holster dangled from. He hung it up on a wall hook and placed his military cap over it. Then he turned to me, loosening the knot of his tie, and said, "It's hot as hell. Give me a shave." He sat in the chair.

I estimated he had a four-day beard. The four days taken up by the latest expedition in search of out troops. His face seemed reddened, burned by the sun. Carefully, I began to prepare the soap. I cut off a few slices, dropped them into the cup, mixed in a bit of warm water, and began to stir with the brush. Immediately the foam began to rise. "The other boys in the group should have this much bread, too." I continued stirring the lather.

"But we did all right, you know. We got the main ones. We brought back some dead, and we've got some others still alive. But pretty soon they'll all be dead."

How many did you catch?" I asked.

"Fourteen. We had to go pretty deep into the woods to find them. But we'll get even. Not one of them comes out of this alive, not one."

He leaned back on the chair when he saw me with the lather-covered brush in my hand. I still had to put the sheet on him. No doubt about it, I was upset. I took a sheet out of a drawer and knotted it around my customer's neck. He wouldn't stop talking. He probably thought I was in sympathy with his party.

"The town must have learned a lesson from what we did the other day," he said.

"Yes," I replied, securing the knot at the base of his dark, sweaty neck.

"That was a fine show, eh?"

"Very good," I answered, turning back for the brush. The man closed his eyes with a gesture of fatigue and sat waiting for the cool caress of the soap. I had never had him so close to me. The day he ordered the whole town to file into the patio of the school to see the four rebels hanging there, I came face to face with him for an instant. But the sight of the mutilated bodies kept me from noticing the face of the man who had directed it all, the face I was now about to take into my hands. It was not an unpleasant face, certainly. And the beard, which made him seem a bit older than he was, didn't with him badly at all. His name was Torres. Captain Torres. A man of imagination, because who else would have thought of hanging the naked rebels and then holding target practice on a certain parts of their bodies? I began to apply the first layer of soap. With his eyes closed, he continued. "Without any effort I could go straight to sleep," he said, but there's plenty to do this afternoon." I stopped the lathering and asked with a feigned lack of interest: "A firing squad?" "Something like that, but a little slower." I got on with the job of lathering his beard.

My hands started trembling again. The man could not possibly realize it, and this was in my favor. But I would have preferred that he hadn't come. It was likely that may of our faction had seen him enter. And an enemy under one's roof imposes certain conditions. I would be obliged to shave that beard like any other one, carefully, gently, like that of any customer, taking pains to see that no single pore emitted a drop of blood. Being careful to see that the little tufts of hair did not lead the blade astray. Seeing that his skin ended up clean, soft, and healthy, so that passing the back of my hand over it I couldn't feel a hair. Yes, I was secretly a rebel, but I was also a conscientious barber, and proud of the preciseness of my profession. And this four days' growth of beard was a fitting challenge.

I took the razor, opened up the two protective arms, exposed the blade and began the job, from one of the sideburns downward. The razor responded beautifully. His beard was inflexible and hard, not too long, but thick. Bit by bit the skin emerged. The razor rasped along, making its customary sound as fluffs of lather mixed with bits of hair gathered along the blade. I paused a moment to clean it, then took up the strop again to sharpen the razor, because I'm a barber who does things properly. The man, who had kept his eyes closed, opened them now, removed one of his hands from under the sheet, felt the spot on his face where the soap had been cleared off, and said, "Come to the school today at six o'clock." "The same, thing as the other day?" I asked horrified. "It could be better," he replied. "What do you plan to do?" "I don't know yet. But we'll amuse ourselves." Once more he leaned back and closed his eyes. I approached him with the razor poised. "Do you plan to punish them all?" I ventured timidly. "All." The soap was drying on his face. I had to hurry. In the mirror I looked toward the street. It was the same as ever: the grocery store with two or three customers in it. Then I glanced at the clock: two-twenty in the afternoon. The razor continued on its downward stroke. Now from the other sideburn down. A thick, blue beard. He should have let it grow like some poets or priests do. It would suit him well. A lot of people wouldn't recognize him. Much to his benefit, I thought, as I attempted to cover the neck area smoothly. There, for sure, the razor had to be handled masterfully, since the hair, although softer, grew into little swirls. A curly beard. One of the tiny pores could be opened up and issue forth its pearl of blood. A good barber such as I prides himself on never allowing this to happen to a client. And this was a first-class client. How many of us had he ordered shot? How many of us had he ordered mutilated? It was better not to think about it. Torres did not know that I was his enemy. He did not know it nor did the rest. It was a secret shared by very few, precisely so that I could inform the revolutionaries of what Torres was doing in the town and of what he was planning each time he undertook a rebel-hunting excursion. So it was going to be very difficult to explain that I had him right in my hands and let him go peacefully — alive and shaved.

The beard was now almost completely gone. He seemed younger, less burdened by years than when he had arrived. I suppose this always happens with men who visit barber shops. Under the stroke of my razor Torres was being rejuvenated — rejuvenated because I am a good barber, the best in the town, if I may say so. A little more lather here, under his chin, on his Adam's apple, on this big vein. How hot it is getting! Torres must be sweating as much as I. But he is not afraid. He is a calm man, who is not even thinking about what he is going to do with the prisoners this afternoon. On the other hand, I with this razor in my hands, stroking and re-stroking this skin, trying to keep blood from oozing from these pores, can't even think clearly. Damn him for coming, because I'm a revolutionary and not a murderer. And how easy it would be to kill him. And he deserves it. Does he? No! What the devil! No one deserves to have someone else make the sacrifice of becoming a murderer. What do you gain by it? Nothing. Others come along and still other, and the first ones kill the second ones and they the next ones and it goes on like this until everything is a sea of blood. I could cut this throat just so, zip! zip! I wouldn't give him time to complain and since he has his eyes closed he wouldn't see the glistening knife blade or my glistening eyes. But I'm trembling like a real murderer. Out of his neck a gush of blood would spout onto the sheet, onto the chair, on my hands, on the floor. I would have to close the door. And the blood would keep inching along the floor, warm, ineradicable, uncontainable, until it reached the street, like a little scarlet stream. I'm sure that one solid stroke, one deep incision, would prevent any pain. He wouldn't suffer. But what would I do with the body? Where would I hide it? I would have to flee, leaving all I have behind, and take refuge far away, far, far away. But they would follow until they found me. "Captain Torres' murderer. He slit his throat while he was shaving him — a coward. "And then on the other side. "The avenger of us all. a name to remember. (And here they would mention my name.) He was the town barber. No one knew he was defending our cause."

And what of all this? Murderer or hero? My destiny depends on the edge of this blade. I can turn my hand a bit more, press a little harder on the razor, and sink it in. The skin would give way like silk, like rubber, like strop. There is nothing more tender than human skin and blood is always there, ready to pour forth. A blade like this doesn't fail. It is my best. But I don't want to be a murderer, no sir. You came to me for a shave. And I perform my work honorably.... I don't want blood on my hands. Just lather, that's all. You are an executioner and I am only a barber. Each person has his own place in the scheme of things. That's right. His own place.

Now his chin had stroked clean and smooth. The man sat up and looked into the mirror. He rubbed his hands over his skin and felt it fresh, like new.

"Thanks," he said. He went to the hanger for his belt, pistol and cap. I must have been very pale; my shirt felt soaked. Torres finished adjusting the buckle, straightened his pistol in the holster and after automatically smoothing down his hair, he put on the cap. From his pants pocket he took out several coins to pay me for my services. And he began to head toward the door. In the doorway he paused for a moment, and turning to me he said:

"They told me that you'd kill me. I came to find out. But killing isn't easy. You can take my word for it." And he headed on down the street.